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SOME RECORDS  
OF THE  
SERVICES OF SIX GENERALS  
OF THE  
DOYLE FAMILY

1756 - 1856





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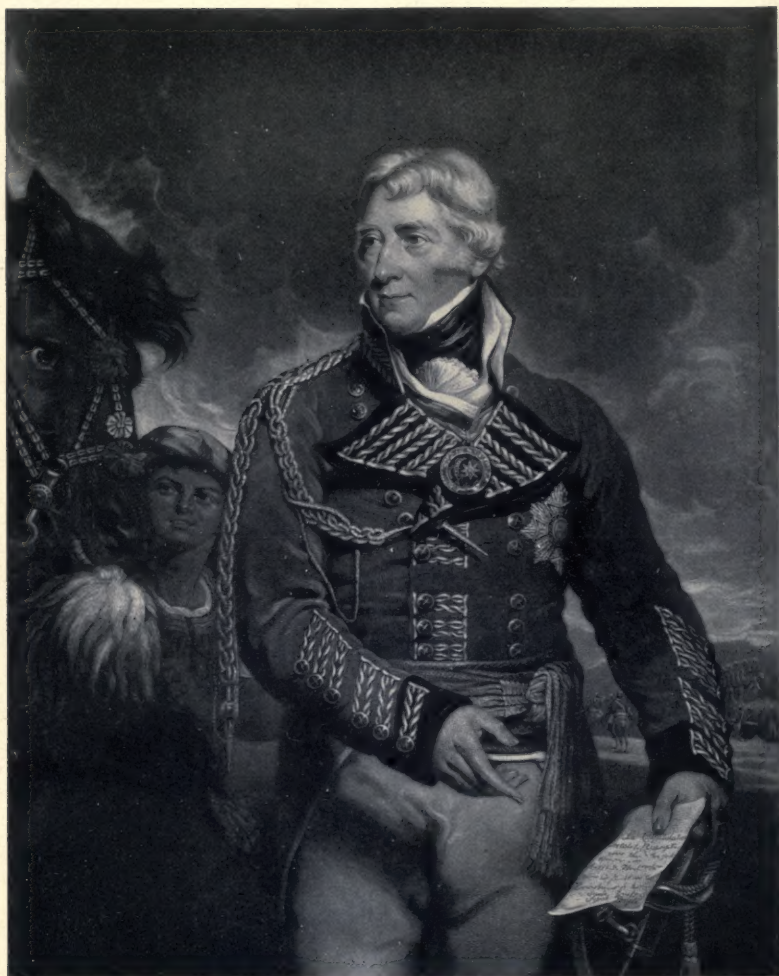
A HUNDRED YEARS OF  
CONFLICT











GENERAL SIR JOHN DOYLE, BART., G.C.B., K.C.



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# A HUNDRED YEARS OF CONFLICT

1309.

BEING SOME RECORDS OF  
THE SERVICES OF SIX GENERALS OF  
THE DOYLE FAMILY  
1756-1856

BY  
COLONEL ARTHUR DOYLE

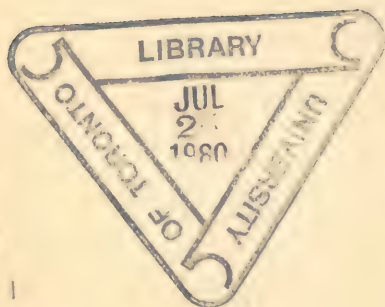
*WITH 11 ILLUSTRATIONS*



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## PREFACE

BEING the only representative, except Lord North, of the six gentlemen portrayed in this volume, who is at present serving, or has served in the Army, and having at present no employment, I thought I could not do better than try to record some of their services.

The *Dictionary of National Biography* has mixed them up; the *Gentleman's Magazine* has, I think, mixed them up; and Mr. John Fortescue told me that in some cases, unless you had private information, where two generals of the same name were serving in a campaign, it was almost impossible to place them, as initials were only given if three generals of the same name were present. I have the authority of H.M. King George IV. that their exploits are worth individualising and preserving. In those days there were a good many Sir Doyles, all nearly related: four soldiers, General Sir John, Lieut.-General Sir Charles, Major-General Sir Francis Hastings, Major-General Sir John Milley, and a sailor, Sir Bentinck.

A Court official, having made a mistake in

sending out an invitation, once excused himself by saying, "There are so many Sir Doyles, I never can distinguish between them." "In that case," said the King, "perhaps it is just as well that they have taken good care to distinguish themselves," which, coming from the Sovereign, was a most gracious compliment.

This story was told me by Susan, Lady North, who married, in 1835, Colonel the Right Hon. John Doyle, afterwards North. Having this authority, I cannot do better than begin.

The illustrations are from pictures and miniatures in the possession of Sir Everard Doyle.

ARTHUR DOYLE.

THE MOUNT, OSWESTRY, 1911.



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## ERRATA

Page 18, line 7 from bottom, *for* "1798" *read* "1795."

„ 110, line 9, *for* "1908" *read* "1808."

„ 123 and 124, *for* "de Chabillan" *read* "de Chabrillan."

„ 195, line 10, *for* "Duke of Teneira" *read* "Duke of Terceira."



# A HUNDRED YEARS OF CONFLICT

GENERAL SIR JOHN DOYLE, BART.,  
G.C.B., K.C.<sup>1</sup>

SIR JOHN DOYLE was the son of Charles Doyle, of Brambleston, County Kilkenny, and of Clomony, County Carlow, one of a large family long settled in Ireland. Beetham states that owing to the troublous times their records were not properly kept. In the chronicles of the D'Oylys, however, it is stated that the Carlow Doyles, of whom Charles Doyle was supposed to be the senior representative, were descended from Thomas Doyle or D'Oyly, third son of Alexander D'Oyly of Ronten,<sup>2</sup> in Staffordshire, who in the seventh year of Edward III., 1333, was appointed to assess mines and minerals in Ireland, and whose

<sup>1</sup> *Gentleman's Magazine*, Nov. 1834.

<sup>2</sup> Alexander was the son of Edward, second son of Sir John D'Oyly of Ronten and Stoke D'Oyly, who was the grandson of Baldwin D'Oyly, a member of the Oxfordshire House, called after his maternal uncle, Baldwin de Redvers, Earl of Devon, who was at one time squire to Brian de Bois Guilbert, Knight Templar.



descendants settled in that county. The arms bear out this theory, as they are practically the same, except that in ours there is a bordure *or* and azure; and this came into fashion as a mark of cadency for a youngest son in the reign of Edward III., from the youngest son of the King taking the Arms of England within a bordure, instead of within a label, as had hitherto been generally done.

In a family such as ours tradition must play a great part. Being Catholics they were bullied by James I., they were bullied and moved on by Cromwell; and though, I think, they had become Protestants before 1690, one of them having married a Lady Lindsey, a Scotch widow, who was supposed to have converted them, still there were several in King James' Irish Army List, and they were, I believe, bullied by William III., one of them, though I do not think a direct ancestor, having had his head cut off by William III., or one of his generals, and stuck on the walls of Kilkenny Castle.

In Cromwell's time a good deal of property was forfeited, that owned by my immediate family being given to a gentleman from England of the name of Thornhill.

Charles Doyle of Brambleston, however, had managed to get a nice property together, stretching,

as far as I can make out from names, from Brambleston for about five miles to the Carlow border, and then in County Carlow, at Kilcoltrum, to the south, and also to the north of the town of Borris. The Carlow property was, I believe, inherited, and the Kilkenny property acquired. Charles Doyle married Miss Milly, and had six sons and a daughter; they were, I think, rather a remarkable family.

The eldest son, William, was a K.C. and Master in Chancery.

"Two perished gallantly abroad in the service of their country"; I am quoting from the only old book we possess on the subject. These must have been Dunbar, the second son, and Charles, the third.

Charles, I think, was in the Navy, but what Dunbar was in, or where either of them perished, I have been unable to trace, but it must have been before 1763, as they are neither of them mentioned in their father's will of that date; but as there was a great gap between the first five children and the last two, it may very well have been in one of the expeditions of the *Annus Mirabilis*, 1759.

The fourth son, Nicholas, to quote again, "became a dignitary of the Church"; I believe he was Dean of Fenner and Leighlen.



#### 4 A HUNDRED YEARS OF CONFLICT

The fifth son was John, the subject of the present sketch, and the sixth son and seventh child Welbore Ellis, my great-grandfather, who died at the age of thirty-nine, a Major-General in the Army, Colonel of the 53rd Shropshire Regiment of Foot, and Acting Governor and Commander-in-Chief in Ceylon.

The one daughter, Catherine, married the Rev. J. Bushe, and became the mother of the famous Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, who was named "the incorruptible," from his remaining a staunch opponent of the Union, in spite of a peerage and other bribes offered him by Mr. Pitt.

The eldest son, William, was a celebrated wit. He was an intimate friend of Edmund Burke, and was a great contributor to the, I believe, then famous political publication, *Baratariana*. He once stood for Dublin University in opposition to Mr. Healy Hutchinson, the son of the Provost, and to quote again, "The heat of party produced a misunderstanding which terminated in an affair of honour, first with the Provost, and afterwards with his son. But these differences, having arisen merely from the heat of the moment, so far from producing animosity, created a friendship between the parties, which lasted during their lives." Very good old times to have lived in.

In the first of these encounters William Doyle

had the gout, and was carried to the ground in a sedan chair. On meeting his antagonist he paid the chairmen, and told them to move off to a distance. This, however, they declined to do, and insisted upon sticking to their client, and remained close to him on different sides while the principals exchanged four shots apiece. They felt they would have lost caste among their fellows had they consulted their own personal safety on such an occasion. I believe that this episode may be taken, as they say in "Peter Pan," as an average ten minutes in William Doyle's life, as I recollect Sir Charles Somerset telling me it was supposed that a good many exploits of his life were taken by Lever for his heroes in his novels. He died abroad about 1790, having spent every shilling he had.

His house and property were entirely dissipated some time previously, and all pictures, records, and articles of value, with the exception of a little plate, were entirely dispersed about 1779, while his two younger brothers, John and Welbore Ellis, were still in America; and as their father died when they were fourteen and twelve respectively, and they went into the world at that age, the stories that have filtered through must be more or less taken on trust. There are various traditions of the military ardour of the two boys, John and Welbore Ellis, and I dare say of the two elder ones, Dunbar

and Charles also, being excited by members of the family who had served in the Irish Brigade and in foreign armies returning to Ireland; but at this distance of time it is very difficult to trace them and the relationship.

Between 1698 and 1741 I find there was a Doyle in the Regiment Lee, in the Regiment de Westmeath, and in two other of the regiments, but none above the rank of captain; and it is curious that even then the same man seems to have called himself Doyle or Doyley with perfect impartiality on different occasions. Among the descendants of the "wild geese" serving in the French army in the Franco-German War, there is one given Doyelle (Doyle), M.T.E.H., Lieutenant in Premier 7th Regiment of Dragoons.

I may incidentally mention, that of all dirty tricks ever perpetrated, that of Walpole making use of his friendship with Cardinal de Fleury to retard the promotion of Irish officers in the French army was, I think, the most infamous. There was also a Lieut.-Colonel Doyle in the Dragoons de Limerick in the Spanish army—date, I think, 1731—but according to my father it was particularly an officer who had served in the Austrian service who had fired the enthusiasm of his young relatives; but of him I can find no trace. Sir Martin Dillon, who kindly assisted me, informed



me that foreign war offices rather mangled the names of English and Irish officers, as, for instance, "Mon Gerard" for "Fitzgerald," so that may be the explanation; or it is possible that some one mixed up the Spanish and Austrian services; but whoever he was, he did his job very thoroughly.

Sir John was born in 1756, and was originally intended for the law. He was educated at Trinity College, but his younger brother, Welbore Ellis, having previously joined the Army in 1770, he gave up the Bar and purchased an ensigncy, and in due time a lieutenancy, in the 48th Regiment in 1774. In this year he was wounded in Ireland upon duty. He exchanged to the 40th on it being ordered to America on the war breaking out in 1775, in which country he continued till the peace of 1782, a period of the most severe and trying service ever known in our military annals, whether the variety of climate, the nature of the country, or the number of well-fought actions be taken into consideration.

He commenced the campaign as Lieutenant of the Light Company at Boston, under Colonel Musgrove, who appointed him Adjutant to the battalion at a later date. He first came into notice, as Adjutant of the 40th at the Battle of Brookline, 1776. The battalion was then commanded by Colonel Grant, who was desperately wounded early in the day, and the action becoming

extremely hot where he lay, the Adjutant, fearing that his Colonel might be trampled to death, rushed into the midst of the enemy, and dragged from among them the body of his friend, but unfortunately too late, for he died shortly afterwards.

This action made a great impression on all who witnessed it, and procured the young soldier the thanks of the Commander-in-Chief. He was then present at the actions of Haarlem, Fort Washington, White Plains, Iron Hills, the surprise of Waynes, and came particularly into notice at the Battle of Brandywine, in which he was engaged with his regiment. Three weeks after the affair of Brandywine, when the enemy was supposed to be totally dispersed, Washington made a general move, with the intention of surprising the British troops at German Town. The advanced post of the British army was occupied by a battalion of Light Infantry and the 40th Regiment, then under the command of Colonel Musgrove. These troops were attacked at daybreak on the 4th October 1777. After a stubborn defence they were compelled to give way to numbers, and retire towards German Town. Colonel Musgrove ordered a detachment of five officers and about 150 men to take possession of a large stone house, and cover the retirement. This small body stopped the progress of the enemy's whole column of at least 5000 men under

the command of Washington in person, for a considerable time, notwithstanding that artillery was brought to bear on the house. This gallant defence was acknowledged to have been highly instrumental in saving the whole army, and in this brilliant affair Lieutenant Doyle had his share and was severely wounded.

For this service the small detachment was honoured with his Majesty's particular thanks.

Soon after Sir Henry Clinton assumed the chief command in May 1778, in order to draw some of the natives of Ireland from the enemy's ranks, a corps was raised by Lord Rawdon called the Volunteers of Ireland, and in this Lieutenant John Doyle obtained a company. It is curious that his younger brother, Welbore Ellis Doyle, was at the same time made Lieut.-Colonel of the Volunteers of Ireland, so that John at this time was serving under his younger brother.

Of the celebrated retreat through the Jerseys Captain John Doyle was Acting Brigade-Major. In the winter of 1779 his regiment was ordered to South Carolina, where he assisted at the siege of Charlestown. After the fall of that place he accompanied Lord Cornwallis up country, who appointed him Brigade-Major. In this capacity he was mentioned in Lord Cornwallis's official despatch, relative to the action of Camden, 1780.



On Lord Cornwallis quitting the province of South Carolina in 1780, Lord Rawdon assumed command of the troops, and Brigade-Major Doyle was appointed to his staff, which laid the foundations of a friendship which lasted through life.

He particularly distinguished himself at what was known as the second Battle of Camden. General Green, after his action with Lord Cornwallis in North Carolina, by a rapid movement presented himself before the village of Camden, where Lord Rawdon commanded a small detachment of British troops, not exceeding 900 in all. This was a most serious thing, as the enemy were all veterans, over 3000 regulars, a large body of cavalry, and a numerous body of militia, and General Green was one of their best generals.

The village was untenable, with a broad and rapid river in rear, and the enemy were strongly posted on the heights above the village.

Lord Rawdon at once formed up his detachment, attacked them with great fury, and drove them from their position.

John Doyle's regiment, the Volunteers of Ireland, were in this action, commanded by his younger brother, Welbore Ellis, while he himself was a Brigade-Major.

John Doyle was specially mentioned in despatches, and was to have been the bearer of

them home himself; but luckily for him, through some accident, the packet sailed without the official despatch.

Lord Rawdon being invalided home, Major Doyle was preparing to join Lord Cornwallis in Virginia; but in consequence of the effects of the Battle of the Ewtaws in 1781, and from his knowledge of the country and people, he was requested to remain in the province, and became Assistant Adjutant-General to General Gould, and after his death filled the same situation to General Stuart and Lieut.-General Lesly.

After the departure of Colonels Tarleton and Simcoe, he took up their line of warfare, and collected a corps of cavalry from among the backwoodsmen, who were won over by his conciliatory manners, and who became devoted to him; these, with the infantry of his regiment, formed a legion.

With this corps he rendered essential service to the army, and was again severely wounded. He took part in a number of small affairs incident to this species of warfare, but one is particularly worthy of record.

An expedition having been sent against General Marion in the Carolinas in the spring of 1782, in which Major Doyle with his cavalry formed the advance guard, on the morning of April 26th, on

perceiving a patrol of the enemy's dragoons, he pursued, and when he had nearly overtaken them, there opened to his view the State regiments of dragoons drawn up ready to receive him.

After some firing from the musketoons of his flankers, he charged them with such rapidity that they were utterly routed, leaving their commanding officer and a number of killed, wounded, and prisoners on the field exceeding the Major's force at the onset. This procured for him the special thanks of the Commander-in-Chief. Some time afterwards his regiment, in consequence of its services, was placed upon the establishment, numbered 105th of the Line, and ordered to Ireland, at which time Major Doyle was entrusted with public despatches for the Ministers.

Peace having now taken place, and Doyle not caring for a soldier's life in peace time, he stood for Parliament for Mullingar, and was returned for that place in 1782. The general outline of his politics was opposed to the Administration of the day, though he was in no respect a blind party man.

The first prominent feature in his parliamentary career was the bringing forward a motion with regard to the Royal Hospital. This was an establishment in Ireland for the relief of disabled and worn-out soldiers similar to that at Chelsea,



but with a strong disparity in the provision for each, those on the Irish establishment having not more than half the allowance granted to those in England. This inequality had been for some time lamented, but remained unremedied.

In bringing forward the motion, and in pleading the cause of the Irish veterans, he adduced many instances of their fidelity, in particular one of Corporal O'Lavery of the 17th Dragoons. Taken from the debates of the day, this is the gist of some of the speech:—

“Another brilliant example of tried fidelity flashes upon my mind. When Lord Rawdon was in South Carolina he had to send an express of great importance through a country filled with the enemy; a corporal of the 17th Dragoons of known courage and intelligence was selected to escort it. They had not proceeded far when they were fired upon, the express killed, and the corporal wounded in the side. Careless of his wound, he thought only of his duty; he snatched the despatch from the dying man and rode on, till from loss of blood he fell, when, fearing the despatch would be taken by the enemy, he thrust it into the wound until it closed upon it. He was found next day by a British patrol with a smile of conscious virtue on his countenance, with life sufficient to point to the fatal depository of his secret. In searching the wound was found the cause of death, for the surgeon declared that it was not in itself mortal, but ren-

dered so by the irritation of the paper. Thus fell the patriot soldier—

‘Cut off from glory’s race,  
Which never mortal was more fond to run,  
Unheard he fell.’

In rank a corporal, he was in mind a hero. His name O’Lavery, his country Ireland, Down was his county, and his parish Moira, where a monument records at once his fame and the gratitude of his illustrious commander and fellow-countryman, Lord Rawdon. Whilst memory holds her seat, thy deed, O generous victim, shall be present in my mind. I would not for worlds have lost the name. How it would have lived in Greek or Roman story. Nor the Spartan hero of Thermopylæ, nor the Roman Curtius have in self-devotion gone beyond thee. Leonidas fought in the presence of a grateful country; thou wert in a strange land, unseen. Curtius had all Rome for his spectators, the corporal was alone in a desert. He adopted the sentiment, without knowing the language—

‘*Dulci et decorum est pro patria mori.*’”

His exertions on this occasion were crowned with success; and the popularity gained by it was not confined to the House, nor the objects of his humanity, but was diffused throughout the country, and established him in the public opinion as a speaker of the greatest promise.

There are various other speeches of his in the Irish House of Commons which brought him into notice—notably one on the management of the police in Dublin and the county. For his exertions on this last occasion the freedom of the City of Dublin was voted to him.

Soon after he pleaded the cause of the Foundlings with success, and was unanimously elected Governor of the Charity.

In the great question of Catholic Emancipation Major Doyle took an early and decided part in its favour, and was one of its first and most powerful advocates.

About this period, 1788, his reputation as a soldier and a speaker attracted the notice of the Prince of Wales, who appointed him to the post of his Private Secretary, in which post he continued until his Royal Highness's establishment was dissolved.

The war which broke out in 1793 called him back to his original profession, and once more he was able to devote his energies to a cause they were eminently fitted for. He offered his services to raise a regiment of his countrymen for the service of the Government. This was accepted by Mr. Dundas in spite of the difference in politics between them. The corps was accordingly raised, was numbered "87," and called the Prince of



Wales's Irish Regiment, now the 87th Royal Irish Fusiliers.<sup>1</sup>

The rapidity with which it was levied confirmed the wisdom of selecting him for the purpose.

Soon after he was raised by brevet promotion to the rank of Colonel, and was selected by his old commander, Lord Rawdon, now Earl of Moira, to accompany him on his expedition to the Continent in 1794. His younger brother, Welbore Ellis Doyle, was in the same expedition, and accompanied the force as Adjutant-General.

The way in which the force, landing at Ostend, and marching through a country in possession of a victorious enemy, effected its junction with the Duke of York, has been universally spoken of with admiration.

In this march Colonel Doyle was ordered to take post with his young corps at the village of Alost, to cover the movements of the army, this being the probable route the enemy would take. The Colonel had barely taken possession of the place when the enemy appeared in force against it. He had occupied with the greater part of his corps the houses commanding the principal street, and was returning from posting his picquets, when a party of British dragoons, who had advanced in

<sup>1</sup> The King has lately done this regiment the honour of becoming their Colonel-in-Chief.

front of the town, came back at full speed, pursued by the enemy's hussars, many of whom were mixed with them.

The Colonel was at this time on horseback in the street, attended by two orderly dragoons (one of whom was killed); he had barely time to caution his men against firing, lest they should destroy the British cavalry as well as the enemy, when he was attacked by two hussars, one of whom gave him a severe wound in the head, and on facing him to return the blow, he received a severe sword-cut on the arm from the other assailant. At this moment the grenadiers of the Colonel's regiment, who were posted in one of the houses, seeing an opportunity, poured a destructive fire into the ranks of the hussars, which made the whole give way, leaving a number of killed and wounded.

While he was engaged in the manner above described, a party of the enemy had pushed past and occupied the narrow passage by which he alone could rejoin his corps. He at this time showed considerable presence of mind, and took the sudden resolution of going off with the flying enemy, trusting to a more favourable opportunity of extricating himself. He being wounded appears to have given them the idea he was a prisoner, and accordingly he was unmolested, and ultimately passed by each



of them, when, taking advantage of a cross road, he got back and rejoined his regiment.

He was mentioned in a distinguished manner in the Duke of York's account of this affair, and was removed to Antwerp, and ultimately to England, for the recovery of his wounds, which were of a very severe character.

Lord Moira in his despatch made the following remarks :—

“I consider Colonel Doyle a most valuable officer, full of active resource, and fit to be confidently relied on in any situation of danger.

“MOIRA, *Lt.-Gen.*”

Upon the army's falling back upon Holland, the Colonel's regiment, the 87th, was thrown into Bergen-op-Zoom, the garrison of which had basely sold the place to the enemy, and contrary to a solemn promise, gave up the British regiment as prisoners of war.

On Colonel Doyle's return to Ireland in January 1798, he found a material change in the politics of that country.

Lord Fitzwilliam had been appointed Lord-Lieutenant for the purposes of conciliation; and amongst other popular measures brought forward, Colonel Doyle was placed at the head of the War Department. Enjoying the confidence and sup-



port of Lord Fitzwilliam, he was enabled to introduce many useful reforms into this department. Politics were excluded from the War Office, and the only claims admitted were military merit and faithful service.

While he held this office the Catholic claims were again agitated. The amelioration of the lot of this body was a leading feature in Lord Fitzwilliam's administration, in which he was ably supported by his Secretary of War.

Lord Fitzwilliam was, however, recalled, in consequence of differing in opinion with the Minister on this subject, and the whole of the members of the Irish Administration resigned.

It was felt, however, in those critical times that Colonel Doyle's services could not be dispensed with, and he was requested to continue in his office under Lord Camden, which he agreed to do, and he remained at his post for some time.

In the subsequent discussions upon the Catholic question, however, he continued to advocate their claims, and finding that the difference of opinion with his colleagues on such an important question rendered his position difficult, if not impossible, he resigned office early in 1796.

At the same time he suffered a sensible loss of income by the reduction of the Prince of Wales's household, and he ceased to be his Royal High-

ness's Secretary ; but notwithstanding he closed his political career by an act of great generosity. He distributed to his regiment, then prisoners in France, and among their wives and children 500 guineas.

Upon the return of the 87th Regiment to Chatham, Colonel Doyle rejoined them there early in 1796.

At this time an expedition was formed against the Texel, with the hope of surprising the Helder and destroying the Dutch fleet. The naval part was committed to the command of Lord Duncan, and the military forces entrusted to Colonel Doyle with the rank of Brigadier-General. He accordingly sailed for the coast of Holland early in October 1796 with the 10th and 87th Regiments and the marines of the Admiral's fleet.

This expedition was prevented from joining the Texel fleet by contrary winds till October 27th, when, having held a consultation with the Admiral and naval officers and pilots, it was unanimously determined that the boisterous weather in those seas at this advanced season of the year rendered combined operations in that country difficult, if not impracticable, and all idea of surprise hopeless.

The next day a gale dispersing the fleet, and destroying several of the small craft intended for disembarking the troops, justified this opinion, and put an end to the expedition, which if feasible at a

proper season, was rendered totally impracticable under these circumstances. Otherwise, owing to the good relations which subsisted between the two commanders, there were great hopes of a success.

In 1797 Colonel Doyle was appointed a Brigadier-General upon the Staff, and ordered to Gibraltar. On his journey to Portsmouth accompanied by his nephew, Brigade-Major—afterwards Sir Charles—Doyle, in a postchaise, they were suddenly attacked by highwaymen near Ripley, and a desperate encounter ensued, in which one of the highwaymen was killed, another very severely wounded and afterwards captured, and the General badly wounded in two places. He was carried to the rector's house at Ripley and a surgeon sent for. "I am afraid, my dear General, you are suffering great pain," the surgeon remarked. "Very great indeed," was the reply. "May I ask," pursued the surgeon, "what sort of pain?" "Well," retorted the General, who never lost his readiness or good humour, "suppose we call it a shooting pain!"

As soon as he recovered from his wounds, he proceeded to Gibraltar, where he remained till the expedition was determined on for Malta and Egypt, and he applied to join that army. He was then placed on the Staff under Abercromby, whom he accompanied to Minorca, Malta, and Cadiz, and ultimately became one of his generals upon the



expedition to Egypt. He served in the capacity of Brigadier-General under him in the landing at Aboukir on the 8th March 1801, commanding the 4th Brigade, consisting of the 2nd, 30th, 44th, and 87th, at Mandoza 13th March, at the taking of Aboukir Castle on March 18th, and in the action of March 21st, when Abercromby was severely wounded, and shortly afterwards died.

In the action of the 21st Doyle's brigade bore the brunt of the attack of the French cavalry, and suffered very severely. General, afterwards Lord, Hutchinson having succeeded to the command, General Doyle continued to command the 4th Brigade at the subsequent operations.

After the affair of Rahmanie the army halted at the village of Algam. On the morning of the 17th May 1801, the army being encamped upon the borders of the desert, an Arab was conducted to General Doyle's camp who brought intelligence that a body of French troops, computed at 2000 men, was within a few miles of camp, with a large convoy of camels. General Doyle immediately took the Arab to headquarters, reported his intelligence, and at the same time asked permission to pursue the enemy with the cavalry in camp, leaving directions with the infantry of his brigade to follow as fast as they could. General Hutchinson acceded to his request, and he repaired to camp, where he

found that the Turkish cavalry had been detached a day or two before, and that a squadron of the 12th Dragoons had previous to his arrival been sent to water at some distance. But he considered that everything depended upon promptness and expedition, therefore, without waiting for the absent squadron, he left an officer to bring it on, and immediately struck into the desert in search of the foe. After a long pursuit, the cavalry came up with them, when the enemy formed a hollow square and commenced an irregular fire of musketry. Major Wilson, of Hompeck's Hussars, volunteered to carry a flag of truce to summon the enemy to surrender, and carried the General's message to the French commander, who after some parley agreed to the terms.

The following is a copy of the despatch, upon this occasion, to General Hutchinson :—

LYBIAN DESERT,

*17th May 1801.*

SIR,—I beg leave to congratulate you upon the success of the enterprise which you did me the honour to entrust to my charge, and I forward for your approbation the terms upon which the French commander has surrendered his force, and the convoy accompanying it, to my detachment.

Agreeably to your orders I proceeded into the desert, in pursuit of the enemy (stated by the Arab at 2000 men) with such of the cavalry as I could

find in camp, amounting to 250 dragoons, leaving directions with the infantry of my brigade to follow with as much celerity as the great heat and deep sand would permit.

I pressed forward with the cavalry as fast as I could, without blowing the horses, and after a pursuit of four hours, I came up with the enemy, who had formed a hollow square, in the centre of which he placed his convoy of 500 camels, his cannon, and his colours.

As we came near a file firing commenced by the enemy, when a flag of truce was sent in by that gallant officer, Major Wilson of Hompeck's Dragoons, summoning them to surrender. It is impossible to say too much of the zeal and perseverance of the troops, who marched the entire day in the desert, without provisions or water, preserving their usual cheerfulness. I cannot express my obligations to Colonel Abercrombie for his animated zeal, and I consider that the success of the enterprise was greatly owing to his activity and intelligence. Lieutenant Sutton of the Minorca Regiment (acting as my A.D.C.) was extremely useful in encouraging a small body of Arabs to hang upon the enemy's flanks, and in restraining their impetuosity during our parley.

I thank you, sir, for having afforded me the opportunity of manifesting my zeal for his Majesty's service, which is all I have to boast.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN DOYLE, *Brigadier-General*.

To the Hon. Major-General HUTCHINSON, &c., &c.



Return of prisoners, stores, &c., taken from the enemy by a detachment of cavalry under command of Brigadier-General Doyle.

	Officers.	Rank and file.	Horses.	Camels.
Cavalry . . .	8	190	200	460
Artillery . . .	1	68	—	—
Infantry . . .	19	311	—	—
	28	569	200	460

Two four-pounders and a stand of colours taken at the same time. One hundred horses and dromedaries (private property not included).

#### CAPITULATION

Conditions auxquelles les Troupes aux ordres du Chef de Brigade Cavalier Commandant le Regiment de dromedaires chargé de l'escort d'un convoi allant au Kaire, se rendent aux Troupes Anglaises commandé par le Général Doyle.

#### *Articles*

1. Les Troupes recevront tous les honneurs de la guerre, les officiers conserveront leurs armes, et les soldats ne les disposeront, qu'au Quartier - Général des Troupes Anglaises.
2. Les officiers et les soldats seront conduits en France, libres de leurs personnes.

3. Tous les effets appartenant aux officiers, soldats, et autres personnes à la suite de la colonne leurs seront conservés.
4. Il sera permis aux Troupes Françaises d'envoyer au Kaire, et au Alexandria, chercher les effets qui leurs appartiennent.
5. Les officiers de santé et employés à la suite de la colonne seront également conduits en France.
6. Les chevaux, les chameaux, et les effets des officiers leur seront conservés.
7. Tout ce qui appartient au Gouvernement Française sera remis au Commandant Anglais.

Fait dans le desert à la hauteur du village Comnerherie le 27 Floreal, An. 9 de la Republique Française, repondant au 17 Mai, 1801.

Signé, Cavalier Chef de Brigade.

J. DOYLE, *Brigadier-General*.

Approuvé par le Général Commandant en Chef.

J. H. HUTCHINSON.

By some accident, neither this report nor the accompanying capitulation was ever mentioned in the official despatch or met the public eye.

On the 19th June 1801 the army, which had remained in front of Cairo on the banks of the Nile, received orders to cross the river the next morning, and the artillery had actually passed over the bridge of boats that evening. It happened, however, at this time that Brigade-Major—after-



*French Troop Captain.  
Captured with a Convoy in the Syrian Desert:  
by General Sir John Doyle 17<sup>th</sup> May 1801.*





wards Sir Charles—Doyle, who had been left wounded at Rosetta, had obtained the most accurate intelligence of the strength of Cairo from French prisoners, and also had been able to prevail on a very intelligent person, who had recently left Cairo, not only to furnish information, but even to join the British army and offer in person to accompany the column of attack.

Brigade-Major Doyle at once went to his uncle the General, and having laid this information before him, the General was able to use such arguments with the Commander-in-Chief that he was induced to countermand the orders for the crossing of the river at nine o'clock at night, by a pass order with his own hand, and not even through the usual channel of the Staff.

The artillery actually recrossed the river during the night, and the army marched next day to Giza, and the consequence was that the enemy at once made proposals for the surrender of that place. This movement decided the fall of Cairo, as General Donzelot's speech at the Congress shows.

"We saw," said the General, "your intention of crossing the Nile and commencing your operations on that side. Be assured we would have given you three years' contribution of all Egypt to have attacked us on the Cairo side; in that event you would never have heard of this 'Convention.'"

Upon this occasion the Commander-in-Chief, in his public despatches, expressed his great obligation to General Doyle, and recommended him as an officer highly deserving his Majesty's favour.

After the surrender of Cairo, many of the troops suffered greatly from fever. General Doyle among others was seized with it, and was sent sick to Rosetta. While he was still suffering from the effects of his illness, he heard a rumour of an intended attack upon the French at Alexandria.

Upon this intelligence he left his bed and rode forty miles through the desert, under an Egyptian sun, and arrived the night before the attack. He joined his brigade, and commanded in that successful enterprise, subsequently defeating an attempt made by General Menon on a part of his position.

Now comes his official report (?) to Major-General Craddock. There does not seem to have been much red tape about them in those days, but they do not seem to have fought the worse for it.

CAMP BEFORE ALEXANDRIA,  
*17th August 1801.*

MY DEAR SIR,—I have the honour to enclose you a return of the killed and wounded of my brigade in the affair of this morning.

As you were a witness of the gallant conduct of the troops, and the several movements of



GENERAL SIR JOHN DOYLE, BART. 29

the day, it is unnecessary for me to trouble you with any details, had I even the time to do so.

Colonel Spencer took charge of that column of the brigade destined for the attack of the enemy's right wing, and you, who are well acquainted with him, will not be surprised at his judicious and spirited conduct during the day. He speaks in the highest terms of Lieut.-General Lockhart, 30th Regiment, who, under Colonel Spencer's direction, charged and repulsed a very superior body of the enemy.

Captains Hamilton and Gray, of the 30th Regiment, were particularly distinguished by their exertions.—I have the honour to be,

J. DOYLE, *Brigadier-General*.

To Major-General CRADDOCK, &c. &c.

CAMP BEFORE ALEXANDRIA,  
18th August 1801.

Return of the killed, wounded, and missing of the 4th Brigade, under command of Brigadier-General Doyle, in the affair of Green Hills :—

	KILLED.			WOUNDED.	TOTALS.
	Rank and File.	Sub.	Sergts.	Rank and File.	
30th Regt. . . .	13	1	2	22	38
50th " . . . .	1	0	0	4	5
92nd " . . . .	1	0	1	3	5
A.I.F. . . . .	1	1	0	3	5
	16	2	3	32	53

(Sgd.) J. DOYLE, *Brigadier-General*.



The Commander-in-Chief, General Hutchinson, in the most animated manner, thanked him publicly in the field, but unhappily, in writing his public despatch, -he not only forgot to transmit General Doyle's official despatch, or mention even his name or exertion, but actually stated his brigade to have been commanded by another.

This strikes the ordinary observer as being rather curious. We have already noticed, under the same Commander-in-Chief, that neither the report or the capitulation of the French Dromedary Corps, on 17th May 1801, were ever mentioned in the official report or met the public eye, and here is another instance. General, now Lord Hutchinson, however, in this case, on General Doyle writing to him, made him a handsome apology, and wrote to Lord Hobart, the War Minister, expressing his regret that in a former despatch he had omitted the name of General Doyle, of whom he spoke in the highest terms of praise.

*Extract from Letter from General Hutchinson to  
Lord Hobart.*

MALTA, 9th January 1802.

In my last, which alludes to the capture of Alexandria, I have worded a sentence in so confused and inexplicit a manner as to render it

doubtful whether Brigadier-General Doyle was actually present or not with his brigade on that day. He not only was at their head, but conducted himself, as he always does, in the most gallant and handsome manner.

I am happy to have this opportunity of doing justice to the merits of a most active, diligent, and zealous general officer.—I have the honour to be  
(Sgd.) HUTCHINSON.

LORD HOBART.

This letter fortunately arrived in time to enable Lord Hobart to do justice to this officer, and at the close of the Session, in moving the thanks of Parliament to the Army and Navy, his lordship thus notices it:—

“The British army was also entitled to a high degree of praise: wherever it was engaged on equal terms it was victorious.

“A great part of our successes during the war was owing to our military, and although the valour of all our officers was already so well known as to render it unnecessary for him to mention particular facts or individuals, yet there was *one* officer whom he should name, because by mistake no mention had been made of him in the despatch of Lord Hutchinson, and to pass him by without notice would be doing an irretrievable injury to his fame. The officer he alluded to was General Doyle. It happened at



the time his division proceeded to attack a fort at Alexandria that he was at a distance of near forty miles away, labouring under a severe illness; the moment he heard of the intended attack, he got out of his bed, rode over the desert, joined his troops, and fought with the same degree of bravery which he had always displayed on every former occasion. His Lordship then read a letter from General Lord Hutchinson, dated Malta, in which he expressed his regret that in a former despatch he had omitted the name of General Doyle, of whom he spoke in terms of high praise.

“ His Lordship stated he thought it but justice to state this fact.”

Lord Hutchinson also wrote the following letter on his arrival at Malta :—

MALTA, *December 22nd, 1801.*

MY DEAR DOYLE,—Though I sincerely regret the cause of your letter, I am at the same time extremely happy that you have given me the opportunity of explaining my conduct. I do assure you, I had no intention of wounding your honourable feelings, or of detracting from that merit, of those services of which no man can be more sensible than I am.

You would be convinced, from what I said to you next day, how perfectly satisfied I was with your conduct; and indeed I had a feeling at that time that you had ventured your valuable life

rashly, in quitting a sick bed to do your duty in the field, to which your health appeared to me to be entirely unequal. That sentence in my letter I confess to be confused and embarrassed, and not at all conveying my true meaning; but I wrote it in extreme haste, broken in upon almost every moment, and under the pressure of severe pain. Nothing can afflict me so much as the wound it has given your feelings, but I hope you will do me the favour to suppose that it was not an intentional act upon my part; and that you will not entirely condemn me, for one awkward expression, occasioned by the inadvertance of the moment, and the pressure of a thousand circumstances.

Nothing can be so far from my heart as to do injustice to those brave men, whom I was so fortunate to command in Egypt, particularly one whom I have so much reason to love and esteem.

It was not only on the 17th August I had reason to applaud your manner of acting, but during the whole course of a long and arduous campaign your zealous exertions gave me the greatest reason to applaud your conduct, and I shall ever acknowledge them to have been highly beneficial to the public service. You may be assured that upon all occasions, and to all persons, I shall be ever ready to do you that justice which you deserve; were I not, it would be a severe accusation against my own heart and head.

Believe me, what has happened has given me more pain than I can express.—Believe me

to be, my dear General, truly and affectionately yours,

(Sgd.) HUTCHINSON, *Lieut.-Gen.*

After the close of the Egyptian campaign in 1802, General Doyle went to Naples for the recovery of his health, which had been greatly shaken by the severe strain he had undergone. There he remained for some time, and was joined by his nephew, my grandfather, Sir Francis Doyle, then a major in the Army on half-pay.

At that time the country to the north of Naples was infested with hordes of banditti, headed by a ferocious chief, who, from his barbarity, obtained the appellation of "The Great Devil"; these bandits had been in the habit of intercepting despatches and slaying messengers; and the British Ambassador at Naples, being desirous of sending some important despatches to the Government in London, was at his wits' end to obtain a trustworthy and confidential person to carry them. General Doyle volunteered to do so, and accompanied by his nephew, my grandfather Sir Francis Doyle, at once set out on his adventurous ride, and travelling night and day, in order that the King's service might meet with no impediment, succeeded in getting the despatches through to London without delay.

On his arrival in England he was appointed a Major-General on the Staff and sent to command in



Guernsey, and shortly afterwards was made Governor of that island, which from its proximity to the French coast was at that time a most important garrison.

The peculiar constitution of these islands, embracing many privileges unknown elsewhere, renders the government no easy task ; but General Doyle succeeded in conciliating the affections of the inhabitants ; the greatest harmony subsisted between them and the military, and the measures of Government for the defence of the island were carried into effect with a promptitude and liberality unknown before his time. There were next to no roads in the island on his arrival, and he at once set to work to repair this neglect, having often great difficulty in overcoming the stubborn opposition of the owners of land through which the roads had to pass ; but by a mixture of firmness, cajoling, and what would now be called chaff, he eventually succeeded in carrying out his object.

There is rather an amusing story of one old lady, who was particularly obstinate. She had a great horror of soldiers, said that she feared if they came to her little farm they would destroy everything, and entirely declined to allow the road to be carried through her plot of land.

The General therefore ordered the working parties to parade at 10 o'clock P.M. ; they worked through the night, and when the old lady appeared





in the morning, she found the road made, and the part that passed through her land completed ; and she was so much astonished and amused that she never bore any ill-will to the author of the enterprise.

The fortifications also, on the sea-coast, being constructed and kept in repair at the expense of the States of the island, it frequently happened that in times of peace they were allowed to fall into decay, but at best they were on a small and limited scale, and totally inadequate for the defence of the island.

On the breaking out of the war after the Peace of Amiens the General found this frontier port exposed to imminent risks from the enterprising spirit of the enemy, who were at the door, and had at the time strong armaments in their ports for Louisiana and Pondicherry, which might have been employed for the reduction of the Channel Islands.

Here his speeches proved highly beneficial to the public service. He laid before the States-General such a short and animated picture of the public danger that he obtained supplies from them to an unprecedented amount. They not only voted large sums for the repair of the old works but they readily consented to build a number of new forts and batteries at his requisition, thereby giving a degree of protection and security that the island had never before experienced.

The States-General was so sensible of the great benefits it derived from General Doyle's measures that they came to a resolution of an unanimous vote of thanks, under the great seal of the island, a distinction the more honourable as it was unprecedented in the annals of their history.

The decision of the States was communicated to the General in the Assembly, to which he rose and made the following reply :—

MR. BAILIFF AND GENTLEMEN OF THE STATES,  
—This unanimous and flattering mark of your approbation comes upon me as unexpected, as I learn it has been unprecedented. Had I been apprised of the honourable distinction, I could ill have expressed my feelings, but thus taken by surprise by your goodness, how little can I do justice to the sentiments it inspires.

I have ever considered that the happiness of the governed should be the first care of those who administer government. If this be generally true, how much more so, when applied to a people, where not one disloyal, disaffected, or discontented man is to be found.

If I am so fortunate as to conciliate the affections of his Majesty's loyal subjects entrusted to my care, I not only gratify the best feelings of my heart, but I am confident I must recommend myself to that revered Sovereign, the whole object of whose life has been the happiness of his people.

I feel great pride in your unanimous approbation

of the measures I have adopted for the public safety. Experience has taught me that the best mode of resisting an invader is to attack him, while helpless in his boats, or in the confusion incident to a landing.

If this idea be well founded as to invasion in general, it is particularly applicable to our island, where, from its rocks and currents, an enemy unused to maritime operations must find additional impediments to a descent.

I fear your kind partiality overrates my services, though it does but justice to my anxious wishes for your welfare.

Much of the merit of the sealine belongs to the judicious liberality of the States; their supplies well deserve that name, when we consider the unequal and oppressive mode that at present prevails in levying the taxes in this island, epithets which every gentleman who has spoken in this day's debate has concurred in bestowing upon it.

It is highly gratifying to me to learn from the representatives of the people that their confidence is increased; be assured that confidence is reciprocal, and upon the loyalty and courage of the inhabitants I have the most perfect reliance.

But let me conjure you, by that frankness which alone belongs to friendship, not to relax or slumber under the shade of false security, "lest in that sleep you meet death."

Let no man suppose the blow averted because it is delayed, else shall we be in the case of the shepherd's boy in the fable, and the savage wolf devour

our unprotected flock. You are the advanced guard of the Empire; the eyes of Europe are upon you. A strait divides you from France. You see her shores, the enemy is at your gates. He is enterprising, be you vigilant. He is vindictive. Your offences are of a nature not to be pardoned. You are loyal and content, your punishment would be extirpation. You are engaged in no common warfare. He comes not for conquest, he is not content with pillage; desolation is his object. The existence of all you hold dear is at stake—property, liberty, life.

The public gratitude did not end here. The principal inhabitants presented him with a gold vase set with diamonds, with the following inscription:—

*To Major-General JOHN DOYLE, Governor and  
Commander-in-Chief, Knight of the Crescent,  
Colonel of the 87th Regiment.*

From the inhabitants of the Island of Guernsey, as a token of their regard and gratitude for his consistent and strenuous support of their laws and privileges, for his zeal and indefatigable exertions in most effectively providing for their defence, and for the perfect harmony and good understanding he has by his conciliating manner uniformly preserved between the civil and the military. Guernsey, 13th June 1804.



Two other public bodies gave him two gold vases to match, with suitable inscriptions, shortly afterwards.

Soon after the war breaking out again the Island of Alderney was placed under the command of the General, and as this is nearer the enemy's coast than Guernsey, a great portion of his attention was directed to this place. The works he constructed, and the measures of precaution he took for its defence, were deemed so effectual that they gave the fullest confidence and security to the inhabitants.

The States-General, as a mark of their esteem, presented him with a gold snuff-box set with diamonds and rubies.

One of the vases and the snuff-box is now in my brother's possession.

He closed his career in Guernsey by a measure which well deserves to be recorded, and shows the influence he had obtained over the islanders. This was getting a general assembly of all the islanders to vote an additional impost being placed upon them, a general tax upon property which they had hitherto conceived to be unconstitutional. The enormous expense of placing the island in a state of defence had exhausted the ordinary funds in the Treasury, and recourse had to be had to some new supply.

There was a mass of opposition to the measure, but the meeting took place in the town church, as there was no other public building large enough to contain the number of voters. The General opened the proceedings by a most able speech; he spoke for an hour and three-quarters to an absolutely silent house, and the result of his eloquence was such that the measure was carried by a three to one majority.

In 1805 the General was created a Baronet of the United Kingdom, and was further granted the addition of supporters to his arms; for one supporter he took a soldier of his regiment, the 87th; and, for the other, a soldier of the 12th Light Dragoons. The following is a letter written to the officer commanding the 12th Light Dragoons on the subject:—

ST. JAMES'S PALACE, LONDON,  
18th December 1805.

MY DEAR SIR,—His Majesty having been pleased to honour my humble services with a further mark of his royal favour, by granting me the addition of supporters to my arms, I seized that opportunity to manifest my grateful recollection of the zeal and good conduct of the 12th Light Dragoons while under my command in Egypt. I have accordingly chosen a dragoon of that regiment as one of my supporters, bearing in his hand the French colours taken with the convoy in the

desert, which is mentioned in his Majesty's patent, and recorded in the archives of the Heralds' College.

I trust my friends of the 12th will not be displeased with this small mark of my regard for a corps which, from what I have witnessed, I confidently predict will upon all occasions support its own character.—I have the honour to be, sir,

(Signed) J. DOYLE, *Major-General*.

Lt.-Col. BROWNE,  
Commander 12th Light Dragoons.

Sir John Doyle continued to command in Guernsey till 1812. He was made a Lieutenant-General in 1808.

The *Gentleman's Magazine*, November 1834, says that he was selected to reorganise the Portuguese army in place of Marshal Beresford, and was only prevented by the packet containing the orders being unable to reach Guernsey through gales and contrary winds. This I do not believe.

My father, however, always told me that Sir John had been offered the command of the small army collected at Cork, destined for a landing in Spain or Portugal; that the order could not be got through to Guernsey owing to gales and contrary winds; and that, after waiting eleven days, Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Wellesley was appointed to the command of the force, which subsequently sailed in July, and landed at Figuera

in Portugal on August 1, 1808, and which began the operations in the Peninsula. He also told me that about 1832 the papers got hold of this information, and several articles were published jeering at and ridiculing the idea of Sir John Doyle taking command in the Peninsular War, and pointing out what luck we always had, and how even the elements fought for England.

This made the old gentleman—he was then about seventy-six—very angry. He said anything he had been given to do he had done satisfactorily, and he didn't see why he should be exposed to the scorn of the multitude in his old age.

Of course, now the idea of Sir John taking the place of the Duke of Wellington does seem absurd, but it must be remembered that then he had the American War, Flanders, and Egypt, in all of which he had greatly distinguished himself, to his credit; while Sir Arthur Wellesley, with the exception of Copenhagen, had not had much service except in India; and while America was looked upon as the hardest campaign that the British army had ever been engaged in, India at that time was not much regarded.

On the whole, however, I am not disposed to disagree with the papers, and I think perhaps the elements did fight for England when they pre-



vented the orders to command the expeditionary force from reaching him, and substituted Sir Arthur Wellesley instead.

He appears to have remained on in Guernsey till about 1813, and on leaving there his active life closed. He became M.P. for the Isle of Wight, but only remained in Parliament about two years. I never heard that he spoke in the British House of Commons, and I don't even know what his politics were. After leaving the island a column was raised to him by public subscription, the only inscription on it being "Doyle—Gratitude," which is still standing.

He lived principally in London in Grafton Street, with a niece or great-niece, who afterwards became the first Lady Lytton, and who, from all accounts, must have been rather a difficult person to live with.

In 1810 he was created a K.B., which after the reorganisation of the Order after 1815 was changed to the Grand Cross. He was supposed to be a most brilliant talker and an extraordinarily pleasant diner out. The following is one instance. At a dinner given by the King some great explorer was present and was telling one wonderful story after another; at last he said that in some place he had come upon bugs as big as the palm of a man's hand. The King, not unnaturally, was



DOYLE MONUMENT, JERBERG, GUERNSEY



rather incredulous, and asked several people what they thought; at last he turned and said, "Sir John, you have been a great traveller; have you ever come across these animals?" "Oh yes, your Majesty, very often," was the reply; "they call them humbugs!"

In 1819 he was persuaded to revisit Guernsey. The populace received him with acclamation, but as the States-General were sitting at the time of his arrival they could not understand why they took no notice of it. About two hours afterwards they waited on him in a body at his hotel, and explained that they were settling the last question with regard to the roads of the island, which he had inaugurated when Governor, and they thought that it would be a greater compliment to be a little late and inform him that his schemes were completed, than to be punctual without that information.

Between 1823 and 1825 there was a most unjust and virulent attack upon Lord Hastings' administration in India. Sir John, feeling this very much, purchased the requisite amount of East India Stock—I believe it had to be £2000—for the purpose of defending him before the Board, and in 1825 made a great speech at the India House. The speech is not forthcoming, but there are a great many letters of congratulation, so I expect it must have been rather good.



One from Sir Stephen Rolleston :—

45 PARLIAMENT STREET,  
*April 23rd, 1825.*

MY DEAR FRIEND,—I was highly delighted in the perusal of the very able and eloquent speech of yours at the India House. It was certainly a most triumphant refutation of all the malicious insinuations against the very meritorious and honourable conduct of your illustrious friend, who cannot fail to read it with feelings of the warmest gratitude and regard. I am truly astonished how you could condense and simplify such a huge mass of heterogeneous matter, and bring the important question at issue within the comprehension of persons the most uninformed on all Eastern questions.

From what I saw in the newspapers I began to be apprehensive that you might, before these discussions were over, allow your honest indignation to get the better of your usual courtesy, and become somewhat too personal. But I see you can use a keen razor with a dexterous hand.—Ever most cordially yours,

STEPHEN ROLLESTON.

Gen. Sir JOHN DOYLE, Bart., G.C.B.

One from Mr. Baron Graham :—

BEDFORD SQUARE, *May 21, 1825.*

DEAR SIR,—I have now perused, more than

once, your able defence of your great friend, in every sense, from the malignant insinuations of some, and the silence of others, which countenances them. I have read it with great satisfaction as the speech of a gentlemen, a man of taste and of generous feeling, and allowing for human vanity, you will not, I hope, consider it a slight commendation when I say that it is a speech which at the best of my life I should have been proud to have been thought capable of making. Yours most obediently,

R. GRAHAM.

Gen. Sir JOHN DOYLE, Bart.

Towards the end of his life his nephew, Sir John Milly Doyle, persuaded him to invest large sums of money in Spain and Portugal, but the unsettled government rendered any schemes abortive, and the loss of money, and also anxiety for the fate of his nephew, who was an object of hatred to Don Miguel, preyed upon the poor old gentleman's mind, and he died in 1834 at the age of seventy-eight.

In the *Gentleman's Magazine* of that date it states that towards the end of his life he was known to the army as "Popularity Jack." At the time of his death he was second Senior General in the Army, and held one or two sinecure appointments, such as Governor of Charlmount Fort.

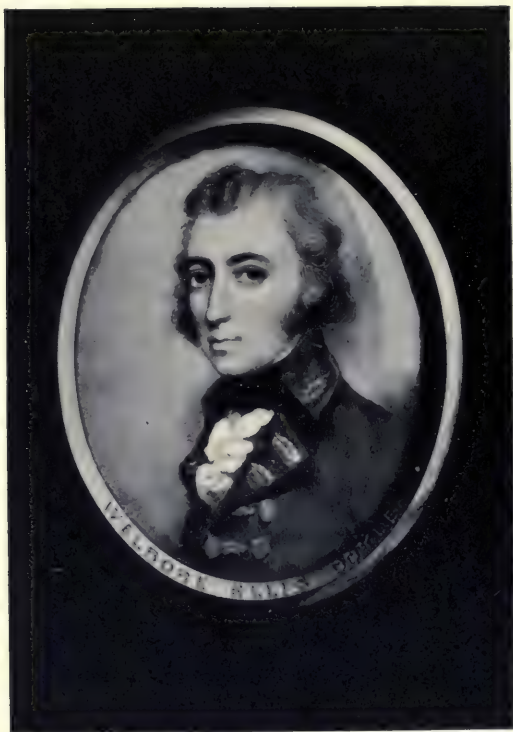
To recapitulate his services :—

Sir John Doyle had been in twenty - three general actions besides innumerable minor affairs, eight times wounded, and nine times thanked in Parliament.









MAJOR-GENERAL WELBORE ELLIS DOYLE

## MAJOR-GENERAL WELBORE ELLIS DOYLE

WELBORE ELLIS DOYLE, before mentioned, was born in 1758, and was thus two years younger than his brother, Sir John. He was a man of a different type to his elder brother, scarcely as amiable, with less of what is commonly called talent; but he possessed an immense force of character and a power of dominating others, which is one of the most difficult of human powers to explain or understand. He was appointed an Ensign in the 55th Foot on the 12th December 1770, and Lieutenant the 17th February 1773. The enthusiasm that he displayed is supposed to have infected his elder brother, Sir John, who was originally intended for the Bar, and did not join the Army until 1774. On the war breaking out in America Doyle accompanied his regiment to that country, and took part with them in the various actions they were engaged in. He was appointed Captain-Lieutenant in the 55th Foot, 5th November 1777.

In 1778 Lord Rawdon, afterwards Moira, and first Marquis of Hastings, formed a regiment in

Philadelphia out of Irish who were constantly deserting from the enemy's ranks. The corps was called the "Volunteers of Ireland," and Captain Doyle was appointed Lieut.-Colonel.

Like many other officers in provincial corps, he seems to have sold his commission in the 55th, as his name disappears from the Army List at that date.

Though the officers were specially selected, the "Volunteers of Ireland" were a difficult lot to manage, as, if anything occurred which put them out, they would desert back to the enemy's lines without the smallest compunction. A curious story is told of how this was stopped. A deserter caught in the act was handed over to his comrades to be adjudged; the officers were ordered to withdraw, and twenty minutes afterwards his body was dangling from a tree. This example proved to be most effectual, and affairs improved considerably; but imagine in the present day what a row there would be if anything of the sort occurred. When there was fighting to be done, the Volunteers of Ireland appeared at their best; they were commanded by Welbore Ellis Doyle at the first Battle of Camden, where they lost half the number killed and wounded of the whole force, and were favourably mentioned by Lord Cornwallis.

At the second Battle of Camden, or Hobkirk Hill, where he again commanded them, and the officer commanding the force was their full Colonel, Lord Rawdon, their list of casualties was even greater.

In 1782, as a reward for their services, the Volunteers of Ireland were formed into the regular army, and numbered 105 of the Line; and Lord Rawdon and Welbore Ellis Doyle were respectively gazetted Colonel and Lieut.-Colonel, date 21st March 1782. Doyle had been twice wounded during the war.

In 1783 the regiment was disbanded on the Peace, and the officers placed on half-pay. Welbore Ellis Doyle remained on half-pay till 1789, but during these six years he was some time Military Envoy, or, I suppose, what would be called now Military Attaché, at Warsaw. The first partition of Poland had taken place about ten years previously, when nearly one-third of Poland had been swallowed up by Prussia, Russia, and Austria, as about 4000 square miles had gone to these three Powers.

Charles Whitworth, afterwards Lord Whitworth and our Ambassador in Paris, was Minister there at this time. His letters at the Record Office deal with matters of trade, and are not of any great general interest, so that I the more



regret that I have been unable to find any letters of my great-grandfather. He must have been sent there for some purpose; and if they could be found, there would probably be reports of the state of the defensive forces of the country, and possibly of the life of the Court there, which would have been very interesting. He was certainly there in 1787, as his second son, Carlo Joseph Doyle, was born there in that year, and was called after the Emperor Joseph II., he being his godfather. From this fact I thought it possible that Welbore Ellis Doyle might have been in some way attached to the Embassy in Vienna, but this does not seem to have been the case.

I forgot to say that Welbore Ellis married in early life Frances, the beautiful daughter of Mark Rainsford, Esq., of Saleen, County Kildare. Originally an Essex family, they had long been settled in Ireland, and Frances was the great-granddaughter of a Rainsford who was Mayor of Londonderry when that town was besieged by James II. He had two sons, Francis Hastings, my grandfather, born 1783, and Carlo Joseph, born 1787.

Mrs. Doyle married secondly, in 1801, Prince Joseph de Monaco.

He appears to have been popular with the Poles, and to have lived on intimate terms with



FRANCES, DAUGHTER OF MARK RAINSFORD, ESQ., WIFE OF  
MAJOR-GENERAL WELBORE ELLIS DOYLE  
AFTERWARDS PRINCESS JOSEPH DE MONACO



one distinguished family of the name of Potinksky, or something of that sort. A daughter of the house, a great favourite of his, was about to be married, when one morning she appeared before him with a very solemn aspect, holding a paper in her hand. "I have to ask you, my dear Colonel, to take charge of this document; it is my formal protest against the marriage I am about to contract."

The Colonel was horrorstruck, and said: "My dear child, if the proposed alliance is so odious to you, let me intercede with your father and mother; they have professed a great friendship for me, and I may be able to persuade them not to drag you to the altar against your will."

This, however, did not suit the lady's book at all. She said: "I am quite glad to marry now, only ten years hence Casmir may not suit me as well as he does at present, and if I can point out that I formally protested at the time of my espousals, I shall be able to divorce him and go my own way."

Whether the young lady was right in her view of ecclesiastical law, or what happened to the couple, I never heard; but this is the only story handed down of my great-grandfather's sojourn in Poland.

In March 1789 he exchanged to full pay as



Colonel of the 14th Foot on its return from Jamaica. In 1793 this battalion formed one of the regiments of the Duke of York's force in Flanders, and to show how troops were treated in those days, Fortescue states that the 14th was the only regiment in the force that had greatcoats, and they had been provided by private subscription.

On the 23rd May 1793, the French fortified camp of Famars was stormed by the British troops under the Duke of York, the 14th leading.

The following is a description of what happened, by an eye-witness. The French attack was so fierce that the regiment wavered for a minute, when Colonel Doyle, dashing to the front, shouted in a loud voice, "Come along, my lads, let's break these scoundrels to their own d—d tune; drummers, strike up 'Ça ira.'" The effect was irresistible, and the French were swept over the ridge; and this is why the French revolutionary tune "Ça ira" has been the authorised march past of the 14th Regiment ever since, and is to-day the march past of the 14th West Yorkshire.

At the siege of Valenciennes, Lieutenant-Colonel Doyle was selected by the Duke of York to lead the stormers on July 27, 1793; one particular redoubt believed to be mined was his point of attack. Having paraded the regiment, he said: "My lads, the General has done us great honour.



COLONEL WELBORE ELLIS DOYLE AT THE HEAD OF THE 14TH REGT. AT FAMARS (1793)

"Come on, my lads, we'll break these scoundrels to their own d—d tune. Drummers, strike up 'Ça Ira.'"



We have been selected to perform an important—and I will not disguise from you, a dangerous—duty. We have to carry that redoubt, said to be mined underneath, and we must therefore carry it so rapidly that the enemy may not have time as he retires to blow us up together. I want 100 of you to follow me there. Volunteers, ground arms.” The whole regiment grounded their arms, and the Colonel said, “Very good, I take the 100 next for duty,” and with these 100 next for duty the redoubt was stormed in such a fashion that the enemy had no time to explode their mine. On the 28th of July 1793, in consequence of this action, Valenciennes surrendered.

Shortly after this he was made a Brevet-Colonel. He took part with his regiment in the Battle of Turcoing, and in the retreat of the Duke of York’s column, owing to the want of support of Clarfait and the Austrians, but in 1794 was summoned to return to England, and became Adjutant-General, with the rank of Brigadier-General, to a force commanded by Lord Moira, destined to help the rising in La Vendée. The English Government had, however, waited too late, as the Vendéens had been badly mauled at Savenay, and this force, which amounted to about 10,000 men, landed at Ostend.

The garrison of that place were transferred by



sea to Flushing on the 1st of July 1794 ; but on the 30th June, the day before, Moira's force started into the interior to the assistance of the Duke of York, and after a most difficult march through a country already in possession of a victorious enemy, he got into communication with the Austrian General Clarfait, who, astonished at his success, received him with the compliment, "Milord, vous avez su faire l'impossible."

He reached Alost on July 6th, where he was immediately attacked by the French. Though the troops were much exhausted by their rapid and hazardous marches, the enemy were repulsed in severe actions on the 6th and 7th July, and Moira's force joined the Duke of York on July 8th.

They held the Brussels-Antwerp Canal, and were attacked by the French on July 12th, and driven back to Mechlin or Malines. Moira on the 13th made a most gallant and successful counter-attack, and drove the enemy back, but was again forced to retire on the 16th into Malines. The combined army fell back upon Antwerp, with Moira's force as a rear guard, and after a week's delay there, the English crossed the Scheldt and abandoned the country to the south to the French, who had many sympathisers among the Dutch and Belgians.

The success of this march from Ostend to the Duke of York was partly owing to a plan that was

adopted of ordering rations to be collected for a force of 25,000 men. This gave the French the idea that the force advancing to the assistance of the Duke was much stronger than it was, and Pichegru actually thought that number was in the field, and did not venture to attack them till they arrived at Alost, when he had got up his reserves. It is curious afterwards to hear that the Government declined to pay the bill for the rations for the 15,000 men that did not exist, and referred the contractor to Lord Moira, who declined to pay during his lifetime, but it was afterwards recovered from his widow, Lady Hastings.

After crossing the Scheldt there was a rearrangement of commands, and Brigadier-General Doyle returned home, being promoted a Major-General 26th February 1795, and made Governor of Southampton.

While in command there the Government formed a project to send an expedition to Quiberon, which was to be accompanied by a member of the Royal Family of France, to assist the Vendéens to rise against the Republican Government.

At first it was to consist of a considerable body of troops under Lord Moira, but the Government found they could not get the requisite number together. General Doyle was then ordered to take command of the troops, which were destined

for some island in the neighbourhood of La Vendée.

H.R.H. Monsieur (the Comte d'Artois) was to accompany the force, and they were to wait for a favourable opportunity for making a descent upon the coast.

I don't suppose any General was ever worse treated than was my great-grandfather by Mr. Dundas, as the following letters will show.

The first letter is one with reference to remounts for the expedition, to the Duke of Portland, who was then a member of the Government. The remount establishment does not seem in a very satisfactory state.

SOUTHAMPTON, 17th July 1795.

MY LORD,—Major-General Graham having put your Grace's letter of the 15th inst. into my hand at the moment of embarking, I have the honour to state the following for your information.

Major-General Graham sailed yesterday with the 12th and 80th Regiments for Cowes.

There were embarked 174 horses for the commissariat. The 14th Regiment sailed this day, the wind at west.

There are now ready for embarkation—

191 horses under the care of the commissariat.

83 horses from the Artillery at Portsmouth.

157 horses under care of a detachment 4th Light Dragoons, of which 8 *are glandered*, 25 *lame*

*and blind, and the rest in a very unfit state for service of any sort.*

To receive which horses, there are not any vessels here, but the Agent of Transports is apprised of some vessels coming capable of containing 120 horses.—I have the honour to be, my lord, your obedient servant,

(Signed) WELBORE ELLIS DOYLE,  
*Major-General.*

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF PORTLAND, &c. &c.

A note on the 21st July 1795 to say that the fort and peninsula of Quiberon were taken by assault at 3 A.M.

A letter from Huskisson at the Horse Guards to Lord Moira :—

HORSE GUARDS,  
17th August 1795.

MY LORD,—I regret very much that the number of men embarked under Major-General Doyle should fall so far short of the intended force destined for the expedition against Noirmoutier, and that the arrangements render it impossible to spare even another regiment.

You are authorised to advance to Monsieur for his support and that of his staff £10,000, as the donation had better not take the form of pay.

It is hoped that this may last for a considerable time, and that when next H.R.H. requires money it need not be forthcoming from this country.—I am, your obedient servant,

(Signed) HUSKISSON.



I wonder how long the £10,000 lasted! When Lord Moira received these French princes at Donnington, among them Monsieur, he put a blank cheque-book signed at every leaf in each of their rooms. My father told me he believed the whole entertainment of the French princes cost the Hastings family something between three and four hundred thousand pounds and almost entirely ruined them. The only acknowledgment he ever received when the Monarchy was restored to France, was a picture of each of the three princes he entertained, which used to hang in the hall at Donnington.

A letter from Huskisson to General Doyle, stating that as the public prints point to Noirmoutier as the probable destination of the expedition, it may be necessary to go somewhere else.

The first letter from General Doyle to the Secretary of State for War points out the necessity of forwarding supplies; this goes on through every letter afterwards.

H.M.S. JASON, *off the Isle of Wight*,  
31st August 1795.

SIR,—The French cavalry joined the convoy last night at St. Heliers; the whole sailed this morning at five o'clock.

I beg leave to mention that it is essential that forage should be sent after us, as well for the

waggon horses as for the cavalry; the former amount to 1000, the latter to 900.

From what I hear of the state of the place we first go to, it will be necessary to have a supply of fresh provisions sent after us.—I have the honour to be, your obedient servant,

WELBORE ELLIS DOYLE.

Rt. Hon. H. DUNDAS, &c. &c. &c.

It appears from the next letter that a ship with powder and arms for Vendéens, and which was promised, was never despatched.

H.M.S. JASON, *at sea off Ushant,*  
8th September 1795.

SIR,—I take the opportunity of Sir Edward Pelham going to England to state that the troops are all well and the convoy all together, except two or three small brigs, which have horses on board.

I fear I shall find a considerable loss of horses from the bad weather we had on Friday and Saturday last. Some ships have lost six, some eight.

I beg leave to state, from the length of time we have been at sea, it will be absolutely necessary to send a supply of forage after us, and also fresh provisions will be much wanted at the place of our destination.

The ship with the powder has not yet joined the convoy, and his Royal Highness expresses great

anxiety on the subject.—I have the honour to be your obedient servant,

WELBORE ELLIS DOYLE,  
*Major-General.*

The Rt. Hon. H. DUNDAS.

The next letter is from Quiberon Bay and details the intercourse with Charette. Sir John Warren was the Admiral at Quiberon.

H.M.S. JASON,  
*September 15th, 1795.*

SIR,—We arrived in the Bay on the 12th, and an arrangement immediately took place between Sir John Warren and myself to proceed as soon as possible to the place of our destination.

In consequence we have sent letters of advice to the chief, with whom we are to co-operate.

His answer we hope to receive at the place we indicated, and to-morrow we sail.

I am not sufficiently acquainted with circumstances to give you hopes, or to damp any that you may entertain. All I can say is, that all that depends on the exertion of the troops confided to me I am certain will be executed, and rest assured. I shall not wantonly expose the valuable corps committed to my charge.

With respect to the force of our friends and enemies, I am obliged to Sir John Warren for information, but have taken precautions to be informed in future. The enemy is said to have—

12,000 men on the coast of Brittany.

12,000 or 14,000 at Rennes.

15,000 under Conclos in or near Nantes.

4,000 from the North have been added.

Of these it is stated that Charette has destroyed and dispersed nearly 8,000.

A great part of the Western army returned from Spain are on the Islands of Rhee and Oleron—said to amount to 18,000 or 20,000 men.

The forces on our side amount to—

Charette at Belleville, 25,000 to 30,000 men.

Staffleth on the other side of the Loire, 24,000.

Suspencaux on the other side of the Loire, 18,000.

It is said that the number of the Chouans at Rennes amount to 30,000.

In short, it is reported that all Brittany are Chouans, and are only kept down by force of troops, who are obliged to keep within their garrisons and march out in force. I beg to remind you that the powder promised did not come with us, and everything depends on these people being supplied with arms, ammunition, &c., without which the object of this expedition, though successful, would be defeated.

I have to state that with regard to the army under my command, *whether we succeed or not*, it is material that fresh provisions should be sent to us.

All the islands are exhausted.

Another essential to be furnished is fuel, *whether we succeed in our attempt or return to these islands*, the ships not having a sufficient supply, and that article being deficient in all the



islands on this coast.—I have the honour to be,  
sir, your obedient servant,

WELBORE ELLIS DOYLE.

The Rt. Hon. H. DUNDAS.

THE JASON, *off Hedic*,  
23rd September 1795.

SIR,—The person we sent to Charette<sup>1</sup> found him at Belleville, and has returned to us accompanied by General d'Abbé of the Royal and Catholic Army.

Charette requires six days to assemble his force, and make the necessary disposition for marching towards the coast.

He can bring 12,000 men, and has to attack four places before he can co-operate with us—Machiconi, Challons, Bauvoir, and Bonin.

General d'Abbé states that Staffleth has 30,000 men, but has not yet begun to act, nor will he till he receives a supply of powder.

It is very important that the powder ship which was to have come with us should be forwarded immediately. I beg leave to state the necessity of sending forage for the cavalry and

<sup>1</sup> Charette de la Conterrie, chief of the bands of Vendéens between La Roche sur Yon and the coast. He was descended from a Breton family, and had served six years in the French navy; but had married a rich widow, and had settled upon her estate in the neighbourhood of Machecoul. He was of an extremely lazy disposition, and great pressure had to be brought upon him to accept the command of the Chouan bands; but his loyalty was undoubted; he knew the country well, and the country people had a great opinion of his ability and courage.

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fresh provisions.—I have the honour to be, sir,  
your obedient servant,

WELBORE ELLIS DOYLE.

The Rt. Hon. H. DUNDAS.

The question of financing the royalists in La Vendée must have been a very difficult one, as it appears there were a large number of them who wished to do nothing, and be well paid for doing it.

THE JASON, *off Hedic*,  
23rd September 1795.

SIR,—. . . I beg leave to mention I have only about £7000 left in dollars, and as we cannot draw for money, it will be necessary to send us a supply.

If, as is hoped, a great part of the Republican army will join provided their pay is assured, I have only about £50,000 for this purpose, and large demands are made from Brittany.

I have been obliged to decline sending any more to that country, except £5000, neither shall I, till I receive further instructions.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

WELBORE ELLIS DOYLE.

Rt. Hon. H. DUNDAS.

The next letter is one from General Doyle to Admiral Sir John Warren, relative to an attack on the Island of Noirmoutier.

E



H.M.S. JASON,  
25th September 1795.

MY DEAR SIR JOHN,—I feel myself extremely pressed by his Royal Highness to make an immediate attack on the Island of Noirmoutier, the taking of which is certainly the principal object of the expedition, and of course that which I have most at heart. Yet it is under the following circumstances *only*, with the curtailed force that I have, that I think myself justified in making the attempt.

First, that Charette should come to the coast to co-operate. Secondly, that the possession of Noirmoutier should appear to *him* to be so material as it does to others.

This, the following extract from his letter gives me reason to doubt :—

“Le succès alors eut été infaillible, on bien que je ne puis vous dissimuler, qu’il est au moins douteux dans le plan arrêté.

“Il se presente encore un autre inconvenient qu’il est, que Noirmoutier pris, si je ne suis pas assez heureux pour forcer les postes qui interceptent le passage; l’ennemie se portera infailliblement en nombre sur la côte, réunira toutes ses forces des-seminées dans differents garnisons, me coupera toute communication et m’opposera longtemps assez de resistance pour que je ne puisse vous êtres d’aucun secours.”

From this abstract, I am of opinion that it is not Charette’s wish to come down to the coast at this instant.

I shall have everything in readiness, but should prefer to take Isle d'Yeu, till it should suit Charette to join.—I am, my dear Sir John, truly yours.

WELBORE ELLIS DOYLE.

Admiral Sir JOHN WARREN, Bart.

The attempt upon Noirmoutier seems to have been given up, and it was decided to take Isle d'Yeu, as the following letter shows :—

BAY OF BOURGNEUF, H.M.S. POMONA,  
28th September 1795.

SIR,—I take this opportunity of informing you that it has not been judged expedient to attack the Island of Noirmoutier, chiefly because Charette did not wish to come to that part of the coast. Charette sent me word that the garrison was 1500<sup>1</sup> men, with 100 guns, and capable of being supplied with reinforcements from Marchoni, Châlons, and Bauvoir. You know that the number of British troops fall very short of what was thought right for such an expedition, and the French troops found at Quiberon are equally deficient.

Major-General Needham sails this evening for the Isle d'Yeu with 1200 men. I have every reason to hope that he will succeed in taking possession of it.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

WELBORE ELLIS DOYLE,

*Major-General.*

To the Rt. Hon. H. DUNDAS.

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<sup>1</sup> I have elsewhere seen the number of the garrison of Noirmoutier put as high as 15,000, but I don't know which is the right estimate.



ISLE D'YEU, *Oct. 4, 1795.*

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that in obedience to my instructions I have taken possession of the Isle d'Yeu.

It surrendered to Major-General Needham on the 30th. I beg to enclose his report.

WELBORE ELLIS DOYLE.

Rt. Hon. H. DUNDAS.

ISLE D'YEU, *September 30th, 1795.*

SIR,—In consequence of orders received from you, the troops under my command sailed on September 28th for the Island of Yeu, which, on the 30th, surrendered to the King of Great Britain and Ireland.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

FRANK NEEDHAM,  
*Major-General.*

Major-General DOYLE.

The following is a list of arms, &c., captured :—

18-pounder guns	.	.	.	.	six.
6-pounder guns	.	.	.	.	three.
Various stores.					

FRANK NEEDHAM,  
*Major-General.*

Major-General DOYLE.

The next letter is a cry not to be left to perish on a rock in the Bay of Biscay for want of provisions.

ISLE D'YEU, 7th October 1795.

SIR,—I beg leave to state that the very existence of this small army depends upon the immediate despatch of—

Fuel.

Forage for 2000 horses.

Fresh provisions.

Money for troops.

Horses are being kept alive on 6 lbs. of Indian corn a day, with nothing else to eat at all.—I have the honour to be, your obedient servant,

WELBORE ELLIS DOYLE,  
*Major-General.*

The Rt. Hon. H. DUNDAS.

The next letter shows that the situation is so serious that General Doyle sends home Brigadier-General Murray to interview Ministers, and try and obtain some relief for the starving men and officers.

ISLE D'YEU, 17th October 1795.

SIR,—I am sorry to inform you that the vessel in which were my last despatches, under the care of Major Clive, has fallen into the hands of the enemy. The duplicate I send you by Colonel Murray, Quartermaster-General, whom I had appointed to act as Brigadier-General. My position is such that I think it absolutely necessary to send home a person who is capable of giving you every information relative to our political and military

situation, and to Colonel Murray I refer you for every circumstance concerning the army.

He will state our numerous wants; the first and most essential to be attended to is provisions.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

WELBORE ELLIS DOYLE,  
*Major-General.*

The Rt. Hon. H. DUNDAS.

ISLE D'YEU, 22nd October 1795.

SIR,—I beg leave to state that I now have to feed 5500 persons, and that in a short time rations must be provided for the inhabitants of this island, who amount to 2250 souls.

Let me entreat you to send us some vessels with beef and pork.

Not having it in my power to supply the cavalry, I have sent them home.

I have only with me therefore 500 horses, but these must soon die unless forage is sent out directly.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

WELBORE ELLIS DOYLE.

The Rt. Hon. H. DUNDAS.

Of the 1400 horses sent home, Fortescue states that about 400 perished from exhaustion and were thrown overboard on the passage.

A letter from Colonel Murray in London to Mr. Huskisson, begging him to order some stores out for the officers on the islands, and stating that

there are 400 officers, English and French, without the common necessities of life.

ISLE D'YEU, 2nd November 1795.

SIR,—I have the honour to enclose you a duplicate of my last despatch.

Sir J. Warren has been forced to sail from this roadstead; from his great exertions and zeal we hope some small supply will be sent us from Quiberon, to assist till we receive something from England.

We fear some accident must have happened to vessels coming out, as I have never yet received any letters since I sailed from England.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

WELBORE ELLIS DOYLE,  
*Major-General.*

The Rt. Hon. H. DUNDAS.

I believe no accident happened at all to vessels going out. Fortescue states Mr. Dundas had a way of sending off a body of troops and then washing his hands of them for two or three months, till some extremely unpleasant news forced them on his attention again.

ISLE D'YEU, 7th November 1795.

SIR,—I received a small supply of provisions I expected from Quiberon, which for the present relieves me of a very great anxiety.

It is impossible to say how much we are indebted to Sir J. Warren and his squadron.



Captain Keats and Captain Durham have been indefatigable. The great attention we have received from these gentlemen I shall ever gratefully remember.

I am happy to inform you that our men are much more healthy, and the necessary works for the defence of the island are nearly completed.

I have not yet had any official letters, which induces me to suppose some accident must have happened to your despatches. We are extremely in want of forage.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

WELBORE ELLIS DOYLE,  
*Major-General.*

The Rt. Hon. H. DUNDAS.

At this time affairs were in such a state that Fortescue says there was not even a candle among the whole force on the island.

ISLE D'YEU, 14th November 1795.

SIR,—I received your despatch of the 16th ultimo. I feel highly flattered that his Majesty has approved of my conduct. I have delivered the letter enclosed to H.R.H. Monsieur.

I shall make every arrangement that depends upon me to comply with the instructions you sent me, relative to the return of the troops under my command, but from the danger of the roadstead and want of transports, our embarkation at this season of the year will be attended with infinite difficulty.

I beg leave to mention, should we be detained

till the spring, that this island is not in danger from surprise.

I do not wish to give an opinion as to its safety against a regular attack, but I am perfectly confident of the exertions of the officers and men I have the honour to command, in all situations.

My apprehensions, since we have been here, have been more from the want of provisions, than from the enemy.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) WELBORE ELLIS DOYLE,  
*Commander-in-Chief.*

The Rt. Hon. H. DUNDAS.

Apparently the belated despatch of the 19th October appointed General Doyle Commander-in-Chief of the forces, I suppose in that part of the world ; as this is the first time he signs himself in that capacity.

I do not suppose it can have given him any authority over the navy.

Sir John Warren had been sent to some other part of the world, and his place had been taken by Admiral Harvey.

With him General Doyle does not seem to have got on so well, from the extremely formal and rather nasty letter to him of November 27, 1795. To Mr. Dundas he writes the following, so that there must have been a sudden change in plans :—

ISLE D'YEU, *November 19, 1795.*

SIR,—I have been much embarrassed by the sudden change in arrangements.

I feel myself obliged to disembark the cannon, and to establish everything for placing the island in the same state as it was. The possibility of being attacked, or even insulted, leaves me no choice but to put everything in the best state of defence.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) WELBORE ELLIS DOYLE,  
*Commander-in-Chief.*

Rt. Hon. H. DUNDAS.

Here is his letter to Admiral Harvey :—

ISLE D'YEU, *November 27, 1795.*

SIR,—I have been honoured with your letter of the 25th and 26th inst., by the *Experiment* lugger.

It is impossible for me to say anything relative to the retardment that has taken place, in carrying into execution the orders received for the evacuation of this island.

You know best those you have received, and you are certainly the best judge how far you thought yourself justified in making the attempt to embark the troops. I must, however, observe that had even those ships of war you sent remained two or three days, the business—so anxiously wished for by H.M. Ministers—had been completely effected.

The 20th, 21st, 22nd, and 23rd of this month, or any two of those days, were sufficient to embark the troops, a rear guard excepted, which was desired to

remain till the 25th or 26th, when the spring tide would allow the vessels in the port to float.

After what you have said of the danger of the squadron it does not become me to say anything; you know your orders, and I did myself the honour fully to communicate mine to you.

I shall, therefore, tranquilly await the event, but have to inform you it will take infinitely more time to embark the whole troops and horses at any future period, than it would have done when your ships came into these roads, having employed 1500 men a day to put the island in the same state as it was before I was encouraged to evacuate it.

WELBORE ELLIS DOYLE,  
*Commander-in-Chief.*

Admiral HARVEY.

They had to wait another fortnight, and then the evacuation of the island was satisfactorily completed.

ISLE D'YEU, 13th December 1795.

SIR,—It is with the greatest satisfaction, I have the honour to inform you, that the whole of the troops under my command, the rearguard excepted, are embarked on ships of war.

The first and second division are in the Bay of Quiberon, the third will sail for that place to-night. The rearguard, consisting of 800 men from the 78th and 90th Regiments under Brigadier-General Graham with a detachment of artillery, will be ready to embark whenever Admiral Harvey sends vessels to take them off.



All the sick are on board the hospital ships, which I have ordered to proceed direct to England.

I can assure you there will not be the most trifling article left behind, except provisions I have directed to be left for the inhabitants.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) WELBORE ELLIS DOYLE,  
*Commander-in-Chief.*

Rt. Hon. H. DUNDAS.

This was the end of the expedition, and the only thing one can say is that it might have been worse. More horses might have been starved to death had they been retained, and had the wishes of Monsieur been acceded to, a large number of men might have been lost in some futile expedition on the coast.

It was to have its effect upon poor Charette, however.

When the force left the island for home, Monsieur said he would land in France on a certain day in December, I think, and Charette was there to meet him with 15,000 men.

Monsieur, however, thought better of it, said he would defer his landing till a more convenient moment, but sent him a sword of honour.

Charette said, "Tell the prince he has signed my death-warrant. I have now 15,000 men with me, and in three days I shall not have 300."

He was right; his men deserted in every

direction, and he was captured and executed by the Republican Government on the 26th March 1796.

The British field officers of the force he commanded on the island presented my great-grandfather with a sword, the hilt composed of gold and enamel, with his arms upon it and a big diamond at pommel. This is still in my brother's possession.

General Doyle returned home, and was made full Colonel of the 53rd Shropshire Regiment of Foot early in 1796. He found that the title of Commander-in-Chief was not purely honorary, as he received, I believe, £3000 pay and allowances for the expedition, which was not bad for a three months' job. In November 1796 he was made Commander-in-Chief and Acting Governor of Ceylon, and sailed for that place accompanied by his eldest son, my grandfather. Hostilities with the Dutch were still in progress when he arrived, and there seems to have been a number of small columns in the field. He himself must have remained at Colombo, contenting himself with sending his son to accompany one of the columns attached to some Highlanders, I believe the 72nd or 74th. The climate did not suit him, and the mountain centres of the island being still in the possession of the King of Kandy there was no possibility of a change; he got rapidly worse, and died at the age of thirty-nine, on

the 2nd January 1798, and is buried in the Dutch graveyard at Colombo.

Welbore Ellis Doyle's will is dated on board the Government lugger conveying him to embark on the East Indiaman.

He leaves all he may die possessed of, not in trust, but absolutely to his loving and constant friend the Earl of Moira, trusting that he will do the best he can for his wife and children.

He also trusts that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales and H.R.H. the Duke of York, who have always shown him the greatest favour and kindness, will do their best to obtain for his wife a pension should anything happen to him, as the widow of a General officer who had been in every campaign during his time, and who had had no time to look after his own affairs.

In those days I imagine the difficulty of posts, and there being no telegraphy, rendered the task of an absentee looking after his own property almost insuperable; and in my great-grandfather's case he suffered greatly from untrustworthy agents.

One cannot help wondering what he wanted to go blundering off to Ceylon for, having attained the rank of Major-General at thirty-six, and having seen much service and held important commands. With the French War coming on he might have

had a great career, instead of terminating it at Colombo at this early age.

My father thought that possibly it may have been a good thing from one point of view, as his early death only just saved my grandfather's life, whose health had been ruined by the campaigns of 1793 and 1794, which he had taken part in as a child of eleven and twelve, where he was once, if not twice, wounded. Had he lived my grandfather would not have been allowed to retire on half-pay to try and nurse his constitution back to health, and he would probably have died in Ceylon instead of his father.

Though not as well known as his elder brother Sir John, Welbore Ellis Doyle, I think, saw as much service and hard fighting, and was in some cases in positions of greater responsibility—as, for instance, his being Adjutant-General to Moira on his perilous and successful march to assist the Duke of York.

Had he lived, he would have left his mark on the British army, and very possibly on that of the French.



LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR CHARLES  
DOYLE, G.C.H., K.C.B., K.C.,

*1st Class of Charles III., Officer of Legion of Honour,  
Governor of Castle of Tor*

SIR CHARLES DOYLE was the eldest son of William Doyle, the wit, mentioned before in the sketch of Sir John, and was consequently a nephew of Sir John and Welbore Ellis Doyle. William Doyle married first Frances, daughter of Crofton Vandeleur, Esq., of Kilrush, County Clare, and secondly Cecilia, daughter of General Silvani, of the Austrian army, and had two sons: Lieut.-General Sir Charles, the subject of the present sketch, and Captain Sir Bentinck, R.N.

Bentinck Doyle distinguished himself greatly in the capture of the *Psyche* frigate in 1805, where he was wounded in the chest and promoted Commander. A curious story is told of him, that, when a midshipman, he assisted Princess Caroline of Brunswick on board the ship when she was coming over to marry the Prince of Wales in 1795, and that he commanded the frigate which conveyed her remains back to Germany to be buried in 1821.

He seems to have been blest with a certain



LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR CHARLES DOYLE, K.C.B., G.C.H.



amount of impudence, as, on being presented to George III., the King remarked, "You are not like your brother, Sir Charles, as you are bald and he has a lot of hair." "No, sir," was the reply; "you see your Majesty wants cool-headed fellows to command your Majesty's frigates." As he was not a soldier, I am not chronicling his services, so he will not be mentioned again.

Charles Doyle was educated at Westminster. He was made an Ensign in the 105th Foot in 1783 on half-pay, and remained so until the 2nd March 1793, when he purchased a Lieutenancy in the 14th Foot, and served with them in Flanders. In the first affair of Famars he came into notice, and was thanked by General Abercromby on the field. When the heights were stormed by the 14th Regiment, he accompanied his uncle, Welbore Ellis Doyle, who led that regiment, as Brigade-Major.

At the siege of Valenciennes he received a contusion in the head from a shell when Acting Orderly Officer to Count Walmoden; and at the attack of Lannoi was again wounded in the hand.

Here he again received the thanks of General Abercromby, with whom he was serving as extra A.D.C.; and was sent by him to the Duke of York to give an account of that action. He was also with the Austrian Cavalry, Esterhazy's Hussars,



and Cavanagh Cuirassiers, at the affairs in front of Tournay and of Menin. In 1794 he was appointed to the 91st Regiment, and then purchased a Company in the 108th, a new levy. With this regiment he went to Gibraltar, where he was appointed A.D.C. to the Governor.

In 1795 he was appointed Captain and Adjutant to the 87th Regiment, newly raised by his uncle Sir John, and acted as Brigade-Major to the 87th and 10th Regiments in the expedition against the Texel in 1796. He accompanied his regiment to the attack on Porto Rico, and was present at the landing and the affair of the Bridge of St. Juan; was appointed A.D.C. to the Commander-in-Chief.

In 1797, when at Barbadoes, a French privateer having come into the roads and captured two prizes, Captain Doyle took thirty men of Loevenstein's Regiment, who formed the general's guard, and accompanied by Lieutenant Morris of the 14th Regiment and a young gentleman of the island, whose name is unfortunately not preserved, he embarked on board a common island sugar-boat, recaptured the two prizes, and drove off the privateer. Lieutenant Morris was rewarded by being promoted Captain, and the young gentleman was given an Ensigncy.

For this affair Captain Doyle received the

thanks of the Governor and Government of the Islands.

In 1798 he was appointed Brigade-Major at Gibraltar, and in 1799 was on the staff of Sir Ralph Abercromby in an expedition for the attack on Cadiz, and in 1800 was sent with the army intended to act against Genoa.

In 1801 he was Brigade-Major in the Egyptian Expedition, and led the left column of attack in the battle of the 13th March, and was present at the attack of the bridge at the bottom of the Green Hills by Colonel Abercromby. In the battle of March 21st he was wounded in the arm, but quitted hospital and rejoined his Brigade in time for the attack on Rahmanie. In the latter part of this day he rallied and acted with the Turks, for which he received the thanks of the Commander-in-Chief; after which he accompanied the detachment, which pushed across the desert to Damanhur, in pursuit of a French column. Here he was forced to go sick, and was sent down the Nile by night to Rosetta, where he was forced to remain for some time.

While there, recovering from the effects of wounds, he had the good fortune to acquire the most precise and important information as to the strength of the defences at Cairo and its garrison. He sent the person who gave him this informa-

tion to his uncle Sir John, then commanding the 4th Brigade, which led to the immediate counter-operation (not crossing the Nile as was before determined), the attack upon Giza, and the surrender of Cairo.

He was thanked by Lord Hutchinson, recommended for a majority, and received the most favourable reports from General Cradock, under whose orders he had been on March 13th, and from General Stuart, with whom he had served on March 21st.

In 1802 he was promoted Major in the 61st Regiment, appointed Brigade-Major at Horsley Camp, and received the thanks of the Duke of York for his plan of the defences of Horsley Bay.

In 1803 Major Doyle was given command of the companies of Light Infantry of the Line, and all the Volunteer Regiments under 300 strong destined to defend the coast of the Northern District; and in 1804 was moved to the camp at Barham Downs to command the Light Infantry Battalion at the Camp of Instruction under Sir David Dundas.

He drew up a Manual of Light Infantry Drill whilst at that place, which he was ordered to take to Sir John Moore by the Duke of York, and also published various Manuals for the use of the Army, Militia, and Volunteer Corps. In 1805 Major

Doyle was appointed Quartermaster-General at Guernsey, and shortly afterwards purchased the Lieut.-Colonelcy of the 87th Regiment.

In 1808 he was removed from the command of the 87th, leaving it in a high state of discipline, and sent on a special mission to Spain.

In this country he appears to have been employed principally in the eastern part of that kingdom, which, though overshadowed by what was taking place in Portugal and the west, was nevertheless of a good deal of importance.

The following is some of the correspondence on the subject :—

2, DOWNING STREET, *July 2nd, 1808.*

Letter from Lord Castlereagh, “acquainting Lieut.-Colonel Doyle that he had been selected to convey Spanish prisoners to Corunna, and after informing them of the events which had taken place in that country, to endeavour to rouse their patriotism, and induce them to take up arms in defence of their rightful Sovereign.”

The number of prisoners was about 2800, and they appear to have made great professions, but after having been clothed and armed by the British Government, they turned out to be entirely untrustworthy, as the following letter from Colonel Doyle shows :—



*Off Plymouth Harbour,  
July 13th, 1808.*

To Major-General Stewart, stating Spanish prisoners had mutinied, and that the captain had refused to put to sea. He had been obliged to fix on six ringleaders, and send them on shore to prison; the remainder then became quiet.

*Letter from Lieut.-Colonel Doyle to  
Lord Castlereagh.*

CORUNNA, July 30th, 1808.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to report that Joseph Buonaparte arrived at Madrid three days ago, but I am informed that he could not prevail upon any of the inhabitants to illuminate or show any demonstrations of joy at his arrival.—I have the honour to be, my Lord, your obedient servant,

(Signed) CHARLES DOYLE,  
*Lieut.-Colonel.*

The Rt. Hon. VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH.

CORUNNA, August 1st, 1808.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to report the landing of Sir Arthur Wellesley and the troops under his command at Figuera, in Portugal, on July 26th. (Signed) CHAS. DOYLE.

This was a little previous, as Sir Arthur Wellesley did not land at Figuera till August 1st, the day on which the letter was written.

A letter from Colonel Doyle to the Supreme Justice of the Kingdom of Galicia:—

CORUNNA, *August 6th*, 1808.

GENTLEMEN,—I have this moment received the commission of Brigadier-General in the Spanish army, which you have done me the honour to confer upon me.

I have again to repeat my thanks for this distinguished mark of your favour, and I must pray your forgiveness that I venture to request that the pay and allowances, which accompany the rank, may be added to the public subscription destined to supply the wants of the Army. —I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

(Signed) CHAS. DOYLE.

*Letter to Lord Castlereagh.*

MADRID, *August 20th*, 1808.

MY LORD.—Yesterday morning the Duke of Infantado and myself waited upon General Cuesta, who was very unwell, at the town of Alva, and begged the General to let us know what his plans were.

Jealousy of General Blake and illness dictated his answer.

He had no army.

He had no plans.

He intended to collect and organise 15,000

or 20,000 peasants, and when the other armies were in motion he would move. This is unsatisfactory to the last degree.—I am, &c.,

CHAS. DOYLE.

The Rt. Hon. VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH.

A letter from Colonel Doyle to Lord Castlereagh, August 4th, stating that after the battle of Baylen—

“I proposed to General Blake that he should send officers to Biscay to stir up the people there, and into the Asturias to beg that of their 15,000 men, 8000 might be pushed into Biscay to Bilbao, to assist the people, who are all ready and only waiting for arms and ammunition, for both of which I wrote to Mr. Hunter of Gihon, and learnt from him that he had sent a large supply of both, and some money to Bilbao, where already 14,000 men had enrolled themselves.

“The remainder of the Asturians I begged might instantly occupy the passes from Castile into the Asturias and Biscay, that is to say, from Regnosa in the direction of Bilbao.”

These recommendations were attended to, but on August 16th the French General Merlin broke up the Biscayans with the loss of 1200 men.

A letter informing Lord Castlereagh of the coronation of King Ferdinand :—

MADRID, *August 25th*, 1808.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to state that I have received letters from private persons, stating that 8000 reinforcements had joined the French army.

I have prevailed upon General Llamas to send off a division of the Valencian army to-morrow night towards Saragoza.

. . . . .  
The coronation of King Ferdinand VII. took place yesterday, and so magnificent and interesting a sight I never witnessed. I take the liberty to enclose your lordship a specimen of the coin distributed at the coronation.—I have the honour to be, your obedient servant,

(Signed) CHAS. DOYLE.

The following is a copy of a letter, I think written by a Mr. Cooke, from the Government to Colonel Doyle, and contains a pretty severe wiggling. I wonder who reported the matter.

DOWNING STREET,  
*31st August* 1808.

SIR,—Lord Castlereagh has received letters dated 16th July by which it appears, from a communication made to you by Mr. Stewart, that you had taken such measures as to prepare for the reception of 16,000 British troops at Corunna. H.M.'s Ministers cannot understand by what means this should have got abroad.



It next appears that, instead of endeavouring to ascertain the exact circumstances with regard to this landing, you set off with the Duke of Infantado to Madrid, and that you took measures to have him appointed Regent, and to form a Council of Generals for determining future operations. Upon these points I am to express Lord Castlereagh's strong disapprobation, inasmuch as you appear to have exceeded your instructions, and to have entered into political relations and connections, without any authority, and by which H.M.'s Ministers may be seriously embarrassed. Mr. Stewart is the only person through whom political measures are to be arranged.

The fullest credit is given to your military activity and zeal, and to that sphere it is wished you should in future confine yourself.

To this letter I can find no reply, so I imagine he considered it unanswerable.

MADRID, *September 8th*, 1808.

MY LORD,—A confidential person, whom I employed at Salamanca to obtain intelligence, has arrived, having passed within the last ten days through the whole chain of French posts; and the day before yesterday left Borja, near Saragoza, where there are 24,000 troops, of whom 2000 are dragoons.

The result of a council of war, in consequence of this intelligence, was this :—

That with every good intention to succour Saragoza, the army of Castenos could not move without money, and the armies of General Cuesta and Llamas are in the same condition. I have the honour to inform your lordship that in four hours I procured and forwarded to the armies the following sums:—

Castenos	.	.	.	30,000	dollars.
Palofox	.	.	.	20,000	„
Llamas	.	.	.	20,000	„

The remainder of the money, 130,000 dollars, I hope to receive the day after to-morrow, when I propose to set off for Saragoza. I rejoice to hear of the arrival of the *Loire* frigate at Cadiz with 500,000 dollars on board.

(Signed) CHAS. DOYLE.

The Rt. Hon. VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH.

SARAGOZA, *September 11th*, 1808.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to state that I have this day minutely examined the army of Arragon, including that of Valencia under command of General Palafox.

The army calculated by the nation, and stated at the meeting of general officers at 45,000 men, can literally bring into the field only 18,700 infantry and 450 effective dragoons, 7 field-pieces, and 4 howitzers.—I have the honour to be, &c.,

(Signed) CHAS. DOYLE.

The Rt. Hon. VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH.

I believe the general rule was to divide the Spanish armies by three, and then find that they were generally exaggerated.

The following is the last of the money letters; the Government appear to have approved of his policy with regard to financial matters, as the extract of a letter, dated October 15th, from Downing Street shows.

SARAGOZA, *September 23rd*, 1808.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to forward to your lordship the duplicate lists of bills, amounting to £10,000, for which sum I drew on the Lords of the Treasury in favour of the two Grinions of Madrid at 90 days' sight.

None of those bills have been negotiated, and by the advice of Mr. Stewart, I transfer the whole of this money transaction to Mr. Duff of Cadiz, on whom I now draw to the amount of 150,000 dollars.

I have, therefore, to pray your lordship to give instructions that Mr. Duff's bill to the amount of £10,000 sterling and 150,000 dollars may be duly honoured.—I have the honour to be, &c.,

(Signed) CHARLES DOYLE.

Rt. Hon. VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH.

On September 28, 1808, Colonel Doyle was made a Marchaux di Campo in the Spanish service—something, I believe, between a Major and Lieutenant-General.

The following are the letters on the subject :—

MADRID, *September 28th*, 1808.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to inform your lordship that I have received this day from the Captain-General of the Kingdom of Arragon the rank of Marchaux di Campo.

As H.R.H., the Commander-in-Chief approved of my accepting the rank of Brigadier-General, I have not hesitated to accept that of Marchaux di Campo.

I cannot, however, avoid a feeling very near my heart, which is, unless I shall have also acted to merit the approbation of my own country, I shall indeed have laboured in vain, and the object of my life will not have been attained.

(Signed) CHARLES DOYLE.

The Rt. Hon. VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH.

The following is the letter of thanks :—

MADRID, *September 28th*, 1808.

SIR,—The honour you have conferred upon me, by appointing me to the rank of Marchaux di Campo, claims my warmest thanks, and does in truth make me proud and happy. You will pardon me in taking the liberty to request that the emoluments arising from the situation of Marchaux di Campo may be disposed of towards the relief of the sufferers of Arragon, in consequence of the repeated attacks of the enemy.



I have the honour to be with the greatest respect  
and esteem,

CHARLES DOYLE,  
*Marchaux di Campo.*

TO the CAPTAIN-GENERAL  
OF THE KINGDOM OF ARRAGON.

*Extract of a letter from the Under Secretary of  
State to Colonel Doyle.*

DOWNING STREET,  
October 15th, 1808.

Every credit is given to your zeal, and the boldness of your decision when pecuniary resources were wanting, and all the information you have collected will be of great use to Sir John Moore, as it has been of great use to the Government. Be assured Lord Castlereagh has looked upon your proceedings with a most favourable view.

A letter from Colonel Doyle to Lord Castlereagh, dated October 1, 1808, forwarding an intercepted despatch to General Jourdan, announcing that between October 16th and November 16th, twenty regiments of infantry, fifteen regiments of cavalry, and 700 dragoons were to pass through Bayonne for Spain.

Towards the end of the year 1808, General Doyle was ordered by the British Government to quit Saragoza, and to repair to Tarragona, to make preparations for the reception of a division

of British troops under Sir John Stewart from Sicily.

Before he took his final leave of Arragon, he threw into Saragoza a large quantity of provisions and 11,000 stands of arms, and his endeavours to save that town from capture caused him a severe illness.

Upon his arrival at Tarragona, he found the Mole Head almost entirely washed away, so was forced to get artificers' tools and gunpowder from Gibraltar to repair it. At that time the army of Catalonia was in the neighbourhood of Barcelona, in great want of cavalry; and there were two regiments at Reus, in the plains of Tarragona, useless, as they had neither saddles, bridles, accoutrements, nor boots. He completed these two regiments on his own responsibility and pushed them forward to the army; and as a proof of his influence over the people and the confidence they placed in him, he ultimately obtained repayment of the money from the rich inhabitants of Tarragona and Reus, who had been deaf to all entreaties of their Captain-General. He joined the army at the head of these two regiments, and was present with them when they were defeated at Grenolliers, when the Captain-General reported in the following terms the great obligations he felt to him for his conduct and exertions :—

MOLINO DEL REY,  
*30th December 1808.*

I can never forget the brilliant example and assistance that was afforded me by the English General Charles Doyle, to whose firmness, efficiency, and intrepidity I owe the rallying of my army at the bridge of Molino del Rey, the saving of my heavy artillery, and the preservation of the magazines and powder mills at Mauresa.

The artillery and powder which had been saved were sent to Lerida, and he was consequently able to put both Lerida and Monson in a state of defence.

After the dispersion of the Spanish army under Riding at Molino del Rey, the Captain-General of Catalonia fled the country to Minorca; and the members of the Supreme Junta also dispersed, and anarchy and confusion reigned throughout the principality; the Juntas of Igualada and Lerida were intriguing to form a new Supreme Junta, and had published a manifesto to the Catalans declaring the necessity of their assuming the chief Government. At this crisis the French pushed forward a body of troops to within a few miles of the pass of El Bruck, in the hope of seizing upon Lerida in the panic.

Doyle, however, heard that four members of the old Supreme Junta had collected some stragglers

of the army at Igualada, and after forcing his way through heavy snow, arrived there at one o'clock in the morning, resolving to support their authority.

The whole place was in an uproar, and thousands of stragglers and country people were crowding into the town.

The three Juntas sat in different rooms in the Town Hall, and after having assured the four members of the Supreme Junta of his support, he went to the room where the united Juntas sat, and having requested silence, said :—

“Gentlemen, Lerida is the ultimate aim of the enemy in order to obtain free intercourse with Arragon, but this very town is their immediate object for the sake of plunder ; they know well its wealth and resources. I have, at the risk of my life, come here to endeavour to save this country ; and I now announce to you that I have ordered my A.D.C., Major Green, to assemble the troops forthwith ; you must instantly provide them with a good meal. It is now a quarter after one o'clock ; they must be on the march to El Bruck by two. There Major Green will make his stand, and form a point round which to rally all the dispersed soldiers of your several districts.

“To do this, gentlemen, and to send to El Bruck within the next two hours sufficient provisions for 6000 men, will require all your exertions, all your energy. I know you to possess both, and

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I trust you will instantly return to your homes and establish working committees into effect ; the organisation of the troops leave to me—I promise their implicit obedience, and if you give me the provisions in half-an-hour, I promise they shall be on the march ten minutes afterwards. To your posts.”

A deputy of Lerida stood up and was beginning a fine speech, commencing with a detailed account of the late unfortunate occurrences, when Doyle again rose and said :—

“ Sir, this is no time for speech-making ; either you break up and return to Lerida instantly, and you, gentlemen of this town and district, set to work and get me provisions, wood for firing, &c., at this very moment, or so help me God, I quit the town and leave you to be plundered ; and I will report to the Government to whom the fatal result of my doing so is to be attributed.

“ If any one wishes to propose a better plan, let him do so a week hence ; but the immediate application of my plan I do insist upon.”

Another deputy then rose and said :—

“ General, the debt of gratitude we owe to you will make us obey your wishes as if they were positive orders, but there is one thing we wish to point out, and that is there is no Supreme Junta in existence, and it was this fact that brought us together.”

Doyle then replied :—

“Let us lose no more time ; I have arranged everything with the four Precenters of the Supreme Junta, who most wisely rallied here. All my resources I have placed in their hands, and the principality will know it to-morrow by circulars that will be dispersed through it ; and now nothing remains but your return to your homes, and let every man put his shoulder to the wheel.”

This speech was not so well received, but no man had the courage actually to dissent, and before half-past three the troops, headed by Major Green, Doyle's A.D.C., were on the march to El Bruck. The enemy, finding El Bruck occupied, at that time retired.

The impression produced by this service was great, as the following letter from the British Ambassador shows :—

SEVILLE, 21st February 1809.

The Catalan deputies are loud in your praise, and have stated to the Government that they know not whether to approve most of your caution and good sense in the first step you took, or of your ultimate energy and decision. The Government also privately lauds you without limits, but it is publicly dead silent upon the subject, and may perhaps even be frightened at the recollection of the narrow escape. However, the Minister at War

let out to me, that had it not been for your most opportune intervention, and the high hand with which you insisted upon the obedience of the petty Juntas to the Supreme one, he had no doubt there would have been a total dissolution of the army and an end to all further organised resistance to the enemy.

It is scarcely necessary to tell you how entirely I approve of your conduct, and be assured I will not fail to represent it in its proper colours to H.M.'s Ministers at home.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) FRERE.

In this month, February 1809, it was discovered that there was a vast quantity of ships' timbers, masts, yards, and spars lying in the Bay of San Carlos entirely at the mercy of the enemy.

Doyle, with a detachment of troops, captured the tower and battery of San Carlos, and covered the removal of all the timber, most of which was placed at the disposal of the Admiral and removed to Mahun and Cartagena, and the remainder to Tortosa and Tarragona.

In March Doyle built ovens at Peniscola for the manufacture of bread and biscuits, and kept Government feluccas at Tarragona and Peniscola, to keep up communication: the advantage of this establishment was sensibly felt upon three or four occasions during the campaigns of 1809 and 1810.

In April of this year Tortosa was very nearly falling into the hands of the enemy ; the Governor, General Martin, a traitor, who a few years afterwards was Governor of Peniscola and betrayed it to the enemy, had invited the French to push forward a corps to seize the place, which was entirely defenceless.

The inhabitants sent a deputation to Doyle, who was ill with fever in the town of Cherta upon the Ebro.

He allowed himself to be wrapped in blankets and put into a boat, and at eleven o'clock at night entered the town. He found that the report was true, placed the General under arrest, and took command.

He ordered the town to be illuminated, divided it into districts, and so effectually organised the inhabitants in companies of men and women, to clear out ditches, fill up breaches, &c., that before five in the morning the place was secure from a *coup de main*, and the face threatened by the enemy was defended by twelve companies of 100 men, in addition to a proportion of the troops.

The companies of women had ably assisted to empty the ditch by passing down into it empty aprons, &c., by one rank, and passing back by another rank aprons, cloths, shawls, &c. filled with earth, and they now insisted upon continuing in



companies to take food to the men at their posts, so that no man should find it necessary to absent himself. On seeing the preparations the enemy retired, and the Marquis de Lazan two days afterwards reached the town with his division.

Doyle was presented by the Governor on the part of the city with a shield of honour, having on one side the arms of the city, and round them the words, "Tortosa etermenta agradecida a Doyle"; and later, the arms of Tortosa were by order of the King quartered on his family arms.

In the last days of 1809, in the attack on the Cól de Balagur, Charles Doyle's horse was killed under him by grape shot, and he was wounded in the left knee. In the beginning of 1810, with the assistance of Captain Buller of H.M.S. *Cambrian*, he destroyed some of the enemy's batteries along the coast, between Tarragona and Barcelona, and he assisted in the defence of Murviedro against Suchet; later, on his own responsibility, he equipped the Duke of Infantada's army with boots and other essentials, which enabled him to keep the field.

His conduct upon these different occasions was represented by the various authorities to the Central Junta, and was reported in terms of the highest approbation by the Spanish to the British Government, and he received, together

with the order of knighthood of Charles III., a very grateful letter from the Spanish Government. Upon the arrival of Lord Wellesley as ambassador, he was ordered to go to Cadiz to meet him, and later received a very pleasant letter of thanks for the information he had given him.

By permission of General Bassecourt he undertook the fortification of Murviedro, and rather successfully, as Suchet was delayed before it for over five weeks towards the end of the year 1810, which gave time to the Valencians to organise their troops.

The principal bastion at Murviedro had been named by General Bassecourt "Doyle's Bastion," and on its being taken by the French the name was not changed.

Doyle now once more proceeded to Catalonia, and Tortosa being again threatened, the inhabitants, again suspicious of their Governor, implored him to come to their assistance. Having to run the gauntlet of the besiegers before getting into the city, just before reaching the gate his horse was killed, and he broke his collar bone.

He, however, got into the city, suppressed the insurrection and the threatened murder of the Governor, and organised the defences. For this

service he received a letter from the British Ambassador in the following terms:—

“I cannot sufficiently commend your exertions in placing Tortosa in a respectable state of defence, and you may be assured I will do you ample justice in my despatches to England.

“(Signed) WELLESLEY.”

Charles Doyle was now preparing to return to Tarragona, but was called to Peniscola by a report that the French Colonel Plique, an active partisan of Suchet, was a prisoner there, and that the Governor had determined to shoot him as a spy. On his arrival he found the report to be correct, and that Colonel Plique was to be shot the following morning “because he had entered the garrison without being blindfolded, and having no real object but to reconnoitre the defences.”

Doyle then inquired of the Governor what punishment he had awarded to the Spanish officer commanding at the outwork, the Captain commanding the gate of the town, and the Field Officer of the day, who replied that he had not yet thought on the subject, and that he did not think it necessary to punish them. Doyle then expressed his determination to prevent the execution, unless it was preceded by the execution of the three ignorant and traitorous Spanish officers.

Upon this the Governor gave a sulky assent to the Colonel being liberated, and he was sent back to Suchet that afternoon.

On another occasion at Lerida some time in 1810, he saved the lives of three French officers and over fifty soldiers, who were about to be massacred by the inhabitants, by speaking to the populace from the balcony of his house till he had got the prisoners into the courtyard, when he closed the gates and the people were baffled.

After leaving Peniscola he organised a force for the attack of Bagur, Bisbal, and Palamos.

He carried the tower and battery of Bagur, though with some loss ; and reports in the highest terms of Captain Fane, Lieutenant Baynton, Dr. Duke and Mr. Walter (purser) of the *Cambrian*, and of Mr. Galway, a gentleman who volunteered his services at Tarragona, and of Lieutenant Robinson and Lawrie of the marines.

Lawrie led the attack in the most gallant manner. A special medal was struck for this exploit, and given to Doyle and the officers under him.

Four days after, Bisbal and Palamos were taken by assault, and the garrison, one general, 158 officers, and 1400 men were sent to Tarragona.

Towards the end of 1810 Lord Wellington offered Doyle the command of a corps of German



deserters 4000 strong, with the rank of Colonel, but the Government refused to have any more foreign regiments, and the project fell through.

In the beginning of 1811, Marshal Suchet was besieging Tarragona, and hoped to take the great outwork Olivo which was unfinished. Doyle commanded a sortie, which put off the attack for two days, when the works were finished and the garrison supplied with water and ammunition; the attack on it was then very easily repulsed.

At the siege of Tarragona Doyle received a musket shot through the right shoulder.

On the 11th September 1811 he was promoted a Lieutenant-General in the Spanish service, and was given a cross of distinction for Tarragona, and also one for five general actions in Catalonia.

In the month of July 1811 Lord Wellington appointed Doyle to the command of a Spanish army to be raised during the siege of Cadiz, and to be head of a military establishment of instruction with headquarters at the Island of Leon.

By the beginning of 1812 he had formed seven complete regiments: Jaen, Africa, Malaga, Espana, Tiradores de Doyle, Zamora, and filled up the Royal Guards and others to the number of 9000 men.

Five of these regiments, the Tiradores de Doyle and four others, very much distinguished themselves

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at the Battle of Arepolis, and received the approbation of Wellington.

At the beginning of 1814 he returned to England, and as a mark of approval was at once received by the Prince Regent and received the honour of knighthood.

Last year I was curious to know if any of the Spanish regiments raised by Doyle remained, and I received the following reply from the Spanish Embassy :—

1 GROSVENOR GARDENS,  
*January 17th, 1910.*

DEAR COLONEL DOYLE,—In answer to your inquiry, I beg to inform you that the regiments Africa, Zamora, and Espana are still in existence, but the three regiments, Jaen, Malaga, and Tiradores de Doyle have been suppressed.—Believe me, yours very truly,

E. Y. PENA,  
*For the Embassy.*

In 1815 Charles Doyle was given the Legion of Honour by Louis XVIII., a K.C.B. in 1819, and was Colonel of the 10th Veteran Battalion.

In 1825 he commanded the south-western district of Ireland in very troublous times, and on giving up command was given the freedom of the city of Cork in a silver box, and the county and town of Limerick presented him with a service of plate, together with the freedom of the city.

In 1829 he was president of various committees at the War Office, but not actively employed again.

In 1837 he was promoted Lieutenant-General in the English service, and given the Grand Cross of Hanover.

During his forty-seven years' service—

He was present at eleven general actions, three sieges, and twenty-one actions of minor import.

Was thanked on the field of battle five times by British commanders (Famars, Lannoi, Porto Rico, 13th March 1801, and Rahmanie), and eight times by Spanish commanders-in-chief.

Besides the Crescent, the Bath, Charles III., Legion of Honour, and Grand Cross of Hanover, he had five other crosses of distinction—distinguished valour, siege of Tarragona, six general actions, saving of Tortosa, assault of Bagur.

He was five times wounded, and had three horses killed under him.

Sir Frederick Maurice in his life of Sir John Moore, I think, rather mixing him up with his young Coldstream cousin, Charles Joseph, commonly known as Carlo Doyle, who at the age of twenty-two was employed with the Spanish guerillas, calls him a mountebank.

I daresay he may be quite right, though I don't quite know what he means; but, I think, any one who reads his record of service will agree that he

was a soldier, and led a soldier's life. In these days it is rather the fashion to shove on gentlemen who shine in the office rather than in the field, but, I think, that anyhow the French prisoners at Lerida and Colonel Plique at Peniscola were glad that on those occasions the Spaniards had the soldier and not the clerk to deal with.

Sir Charles Doyle married Sophia, daughter of Sir John Coghill, Bart., and had three sons and a daughter :—

General Sir Hastings, who was some time A.A.G. of the 3rd Division in the Crimea, and who afterwards commanded at Nova Scotia, Portsmouth.

Percy William, C.B., a well-known diplomat, some time Minister in Mexico.

Colonel the Right Hon. John (North), who married Susan, Baroness North, daughter and co-heiress with Lady Bute of the third Earl of Guildford, and took the name of North. He represented one of the divisions of Oxfordshire for over thirty years, being never defeated. He had one son, the present Lord North.

Sylvia, died unmarried.

Sir Charles Doyle died in 1842.

Since writing the preceding, Fortescue's *History of the British Army*, vol. vi., has appeared, in which he states that in 1808-9 "Charles Doyle



was the laughing-stock of the British and Spanish armies."

I am bound to say I think this rather a hard description ; he did not arrive in Spain till July 1808, and during the autumn of that year he received the appointment first of Brigadier-General and then of Marchaux di Campo, in the Spanish service ; there is the report of the Captain-General of Catalonia dated 30th December 1808, and the letter of Frere dated February 21, 1809, from which it appears that he was giving general satisfaction to all parties. In order to see if I could find out anything more of the events of the years 1808-9, I have lately been to Wroxton Abbey, Lord North's house, to examine papers there. There was a great mass of documents, a large number written in Spanish, which were not of much good to me, but I came upon one letter dealing with the year I required, a spontaneous tribute to him from Stuart, who was our diplomatic agent in Spain in 1808 :—

PARIS, 12th September 1816.

MY DEAR GENERAL,—As I have repeatedly expressed in conversation the sense of the advantage I derived from your assistance, in the commencement of the struggle in Spain, I feel great pleasure in availing myself of the first moment after your return to England to offer a spontaneous testimony of your personal exertions in Gallicia, Arragon, and

Castile, and your success in organising the resistance to the enemy during the period I was accredited to the Provincial and Central Governments of that country in the years 1808-9.—Believe me, my dear General, yours faithfully,

(Signed) STUART.

Lieut.-General Sir C. W. DOYLE.

I don't know what evidence Mr. Fortescue has to go on. I feel sure that he would not make such a statement without being perfectly convinced of the truth of it himself, but I think I have produced a certain amount of evidence on the other side to show that Charles Doyle was doing good work, with the approval of his superiors, during the years referred to.

Another incident I came upon at Wroxton is, I think, worthy of notice, though not dealing with 1808-9.

On Charles Doyle taking command of the Spanish army in the Island of Leon in 1811, he found a clique of officers, headed by the Colonel commanding his artillery, and the Brigadier-General commanding his cavalry, bitterly opposed to him.

He was in the habit of giving the recruits practical experience of skirmishing and outposts, by landing them on the mainland, and exercising them against the enemy, being certain, if the French

pressed him too hard, of being able to retire and cross to Leon, being covered by the fire of his guns on that island.

On one occasion, expecting the support of his artillery, it was not forthcoming, and had it not been for the extreme gallantry of his aide-de-camp, Baron Gruezno, he would have been captured.

He found on getting back to the island that the Colonel commanding the artillery had retired to supper, having given orders that no guns were to be discharged. This officer he was forced to have placed on half-pay, upon which he received a most insulting letter from the Brigadier-General commanding his cavalry.

Charles Doyle sent the Brigadier-General a letter by a messenger, saying that he overlooked the insubordination, but that the insults were so gross that he demanded instant satisfaction. That the messenger would at once conduct him to a spot where he, Charles Doyle, was to be found, and that the Brigadier-General might have choice of weapons.

The Brigadier-General sent a letter of apology, but which was not considered satisfactory.

He then said Charles Doyle might dictate the apology.

This was done, and the Brigadier-General then read out the original insulting letter and the apology to the whole of the assembled officers of the garrison.

After this there was no more opposition; the cavalry Brigadier shortly after retired on half-pay, and the whole of the officers supported their Commander in a most whole-hearted manner.

In concluding this article, I think I have said enough to show that Charles Doyle extricated himself from various situations of danger and difficulty, if not in the best, under the circumstances in a highly successful way, and in a manner not unbecoming the character of an English gentleman.

He appears to have occupied his spare time in Spain by writing plays; I found several complete ones mixed up with the papers dealing with the campaign.



## MAJOR-GENERAL SIR FRANCIS HASTINGS DOYLE, BART.

FRANCIS DOYLE was the eldest son of General Welbore Ellis Doyle, and nephew of Sir John.

He was born in 1783, and had an eventful life up to about his twentieth year ; but after that, from the hardships and privations he had experienced as a child, was forced from the state of his health to retire from active military life, and though he continued on half-pay, his career followed along the lines of civil employment.

His war service is very difficult to follow, as being always on half-pay, and apparently attached to somebody's Staff, one has no regimental records to guide one.

I imagine almost from his cradle he was on the half-pay of the 105th Foot, the late Volunteers of Ireland of the American War.

He is shown in this capacity till the 31st May 1794, when he was appointed Ensign in Captain Henry Tufton's Independent Company of Foot.

His father was not, however, a man to allow childhood to stand in the way of active service if there was anything going on ; accordingly he



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accompanied his father, then Colonel of the 14th Foot, to Flanders in 1793, and was present at the action of Famars at the mature age of a little over ten.

After this he returned to his mother in England for a bit, who must have been glad to have him back; but again accompanied his father, then a Brigadier-General and Adjutant-General to Moira's force, when they landed at Ostend in 1794.

On the 21st June 1794 he was promoted Lieutenant and transferred to the 108th Foot. He was present at the action of Alost, all through the operations which led to Moira's junction with the Duke of York in July 1794. He was also present at the action of Malines, or Mechlin, on the 12th July 1794, when the French were repulsed; and on the 16th July was wounded in the leg in Moira's rearguard action to cover the retirement of the Duke of York in Antwerp.

On the 1st November 1794 he was promoted Captain in the 108th Foot, at the age of eleven.

It is rather curious to think that my great-grandfather should have joined the Army at twelve, and that my grandfather should have been a Captain at eleven. He underwent the dreadful hardships of the winter of 1794, when the Rhine was solidly frozen over, and in the spring of 1795 returned to England, and I suppose acted as sort



of A.D.C. to his father, who then commanded at Southampton.

The details I have had to take on trust from the account given me by my father, but I have worked them out with the official account, and the dates agree, and I believe them to be correct.

After one of the actions, in 1794, it is stated that my grandfather, overcome by fatigue, went to sleep with his head pillowed on the chest of some German Prince, whose name I cannot remember, to the horror and indignation of the attendants, but that his royal or serene Highness refused to have him removed.

In 1795 the 108th was disbanded, and he was soon afterwards placed on the half-pay of that regiment.

Whether he accompanied his father to the Isle d'Yeu in 1795 I don't know. There is no mention of him in letters from that place, but as he was with him at Southampton, the place from which the expedition started, it is quite possible that he did so.

If he did, the hardships he would have had to undergo there, where there was next to nothing to eat, and where Fortescue states there was not even a candle among the whole force, must have been a further strain on his constitution.

I fancy during most of 1796 he stopped quiet, and in the winter of that year he was ill with

measles. His father, however, had been ordered to take command of the troops in Ceylon, and to administer the government of that island; such little trifles as measles did not trouble him in the least, and I suppose they did not bother much about quarantine regulations. My grandfather was accordingly fetched out of bed and carried to the ship, starting, I think, in November, and arriving at Ceylon early in 1797.

There were desultory expeditions going on against the Dutch and natives. Welbore Ellis Doyle himself remained at Colombo, I believe, but the opportunity of bringing his son forward was too good to miss, and he attached him to a Highland regiment, whether the 72nd or 74th I am not quite clear. With this corps he saw whatever fighting there was going on.

On the 2nd January 1798 Welbore Ellis Doyle died at the age of thirty-nine, and I cannot do better than quote my father on the subject, as follows:—

“My grandfather, however able in many directions, did not trouble himself much about the laws of nature.

“By his exertions my father was made a Captain at eleven, and carried off to the Netherlands for the campaigns of 1793–94, campaigns during which the Rhine was solidly frozen over; he was

then swept off to active service in India before his fourteenth birthday.

"The result of all this was that my father, no doubt a very strong man originally, died in his fifty-seventh year, as Dr. Chambers told me, simply of old age.

"Now, had my grandfather lived on he would have continued to forget that his son was made of flesh and blood, and not of steel wire; he would have discouraged any attempt of his to retire from the Army as a last chance of reacquiring something like health and strength, and would have killed him by over-pressure whilst he was yet, as years go, in the beginning of youth. As it was, he did not extinguish my father, but only crippled and maimed a life just saved by his own death, a death which, from that point of view, can hardly be looked upon as premature."

After the death of my great-grandfather in Ceylon, another General officer, whose name need not be given, took charge of the son of his old friend with enthusiastic goodwill, but turned out to be a capricious, unstable sort of man, and treated my grandfather so badly under the influence of an ill-conditioned Frenchwoman, that though scarcely sixteen, he turned upon him with irrevocable determination and threw up his appointment.

From what my father told me, it appeared that the young fellow had a feeling of honour towards

the man whose bread he was eating, and rather played the part of Joseph towards the lady in question. However that may be, the quarrel was not made up.

The Highland regiment to whom he had been attached took the boy's part, and a company of theirs happening to be vacant, they placed it under his command at once, in order to facilitate his return, my father says, to Calcutta, which they were under orders for.

This, I think, is a mistake, and that it was Madras that they moved to.

I may incidentally mention that this death of my great-grandfather in Ceylon, when his son was too young to know or care anything of his own private affairs, cost the family rather dear.

Welbore Ellis Doyle held a perpetual lease of some land in the immediate vicinity of Dublin under one of those curious Irish tenures of paying a fine to the head landlord every life.

When he died in 1798, the lawyer ought to have paid this fine, but this was not done; my grandfather neither knew nor cared anything about it, and the whole thing lapsed to the head landlord. The lawyer is supposed to have received compensation for his neglect, to say the least of it. Anyhow, the land was built over and became a suburb of Dublin, and when I inquired about it twenty



years ago, it was supposed to be worth £60,000 a year.

I do not, however, count it as that amount of income lost, as I feel sure, from my knowledge of the family, that directly it had become worth £20,000 or £30,000 it would have been sold for the sake of hard cash.

My grandfather, Francis Doyle, accompanied the Highland regiment to Madras, and served in some of the operations of 1798; where he became acquainted with, and received the kindly notice of, Colonel Arthur Wellesley. I do not, however, think that he was at the taking of Seringapatam.

As to what happened I can form no idea, as he next appears in some way attached to the Staff of Charles Stuart in Sicily, in 1799.

My grandfather must have remained some time in Sicily, and appears to have been taken notice of by Nelson, a fact which considerably influenced his subsequent career.

One story I got from my father of that time in Sicily is rather interesting.

My grandfather attended a party at the Court at Messina or at Palermo, and sat immediately behind Nelson, who was in an armchair. Lady Hamilton recited, and Nelson's admiration so far carried him away, that he kept snapping the fingers

of his one hand and exclaiming, "Mrs. Siddons be d—d! Mrs. Siddons be d—d!"

Some time in 1800, my grandfather returned to England, and was taken by Nelson to act as a marine on board his ship, in the Copenhagen expedition.

Just before the engagement began, Nelson clapped him on the shoulder and said, "Come boy, come along with me," and took him down to the Council of War; and there as a lad of nineteen, he took his seat among the bigwigs. What struck him most in the action was the blowing up of the *Dannebrog*. According to my father—

"He used to tell how the doomed vessel, one mass of flame, drifted through the hostile fleets, her guns sullenly discharging themselves as she passed; then in an instant a dense column of black smoke, rushing up the sky to an unbelievable height, diffused itself into a haze of fire, through which fragments of spars and timbers were seen dimly floating.

"These fell at intervals into the sea, and when the sound ceased, there was an end of the *Dannebrog*."

Directly the fighting ceased, Nelson sent my grandfather with despatches to Berlin to impress upon the Prussians the importance of the victory.

It was a difficult position for a boy of his age,

to confront Ministers and Ambassadors charged to the brim with secret or avowed hostility to England, but his antagonists were not aware that behind that youthful aspect lay hidden the experience of a traveller who had already seen "the cities and manners of many men," and of a soldier who might almost be called a veteran.

Lady Charlotte Proby, then at Berlin with her father, our Ambassador to the King of Prussia, told my father on more than one occasion, how great a sensation was produced at the royal table, when this boy silenced the most pertinacious of his questioning enemies, a man who kept bothering him, as to what would have happened, if the Danes had done this, that, or the other, by replying at once, "*Allons, Monseigneur, nous aurions fait, sans combattre, ce que nous avons combattue pour faire*"; and proceeded to explain with great distinctness how that result must have followed.

He was dismissed with despatches for England, but the ordinary King's messenger with a duplicate despatch proceeded by another vessel, and my grandfather's agony of mind when his ship grounded in the Elbe was great, fearing that he would be behindhand.

However, they both arrived almost at the same time. The King's messenger got into one post-chaise and my grandfather chartered another. Going

up to the postboys, he said, "Postboys, what you please, but you must beat that chaise into London."

They galloped to London at the rate of 17 miles an hour, and won the race by about two hours. After this, I think, he remained on half-pay for a bit, but in 1802 returned to Naples, and joined his uncle, Sir John, who had gone there to recoup his health, after the hardship of the Egyptian campaign; and he accompanied him on his ride with despatches for London, through the country infested with bandits in the Neapolitan kingdom.

In January 1803, my grandfather was in Paris. His mother had, after the death of my great-grandfather in 1798, married Prince Joseph de Monaco, late in 1801.

They had an hotel in Paris, and he probably took advantage of the Peace of Amiens to pay her a visit.<sup>1</sup>

The present Comte de Chabillan, a few years ago, sent my brother a picture of my great-grandmother painted at that time. She was supposed to be a great beauty, but I must confess that I was

<sup>1</sup> Prince Joseph had no children by her, but had had two daughters by his first wife, who was a daughter of the Duc de Choiseul. These ladies married Frenchmen, and my grandfather and his brother Carlo, though not really connected, were on terms of intimacy and quasi-relationship with De la Tour du Pins, de Louvois's, and de Chabillans.



rather disappointed in her appearance; possibly she had lost her looks a little.

The Comte de Chabillan married a celebrated French beauty, a Mdlle. de Mirepoix, to whose family a curious legend is attached. They are supposed to be descended from a brother of the Virgin Mary; and in their possession is a picture of one of the family, kneeling before the Virgin, who is raising her hand, with a scroll coming out of her mouth on which is written "Relevez vous, mon cousin."

To return to my grandfather: he was presented to Napoleon, and the following letter describing the scene is interesting, as it is believed to be the only levée and reception held by him as First Consul. The letter was written to Lady Milner, his future mother-in-law.

PARIS, 8th January (? 1803).

MY DEAR LADY MILNER,—I have some little grievances to complain of, but I shall be silent and rest for redress upon the influence of conscience, which though sometimes tardy impels us at last to justice. I have delayed writing to you for many reasons. I have not met with private opportunities, and I did not wish to expose my correspondence with you (however trifling my letters might be) to the inspection of a French commissary, an inconvenience to which you are subjected in writing by the post—what a gratifying situation for a curious

man! But I had another reason. I wished to be able to give you a description of the most prominent features in the society of this extraordinary place; my object was therefore to see everything—my determination to say nothing until I had accomplished my object; I was contented to hazard for a time the appearance of neglect that I might endeavour to collect everything which should afford you satisfaction. I have now looked at everything which convulsion has thrown to the surface, and I would wish to give you the whole picture in the same light in which I received it. But it is of all things perhaps the most difficult to an ordinary mind to give a faithful and distinct description of a complicated object; so many different things crowd at once upon him, each striving for a preference, that the unhappy man knows not which to fix on, till wearied with their obtrusive emulation, in a last effort he breaks the slender bonds that separate them, and out rushes the chaos of the mind. Such is my state at this moment. I wish to obey the commands you gave me and to perform my promise, but I know not where to begin. I had no opportunity when I was here last year of being presented to Bonaparte, so that this ceremony was new to me. After the review was over last Wednesday all those who were to be introduced assembled in a lower apartment of the “Tuilleries,” called the Salon des Ambassadeurs. I suppose there were about twenty-five English and as many more foreigners of different nations; we were kept waiting near an hour with a view, I really believe, of giving time for the display

of consular magnificence, for during the delay we were waited upon by livery servants and the pages of the palace with every kind of refreshment—chocolate, malaga, malmsey, cakes, ice, &c. When this was over notice was sent down that the Consul was ready to receive us; we then went to the top of a great staircase, and were shown through a suite of rooms into a most elegant apartment where we formed a regular circle, the different Ambassadors in the front of their respective bodies, the Pope's Legate on the right, the Imperial Ambassador next to him, then ours, &c. When this was complete folding doors were thrown open, and Bonaparte appeared dressed in *purple and gold*, the consular uniform, silk stockings, buckles, and a small dress sword. He spoke to the Cardinal first, then in succession to the other Ministers, who introduced their nation. When he came to Whitworth he said some civil things: asked after the Duchess, and hoped that the English amused themselves in Paris. We were then introduced in turn; he spoke to few of us, but said some general civil things: he asked Charles Stewart the height of our dragoons, Lord Besborough how many children he had. There was "Col. Dillon" amongst us, who in fact is a Frenchman. When Lord W. said "Col. Dillon," Bonaparte instantly asked, "Est il Anglois?" Lord W. said "Yes." This quickness struck me, but he made no observation in my hearing worthy of repeating. In this way he went round the circle and played his part admirably well. His manner is uncommonly good, and a smile which he wears gives a pleasing



expression to his face. When he had gone round the circle he placed himself between the other two Consuls who stood there like two posts, made us three bows and retired. Such was the presentation. There was a dinner afterwards to which those were invited who had been presented the preceding month. Lord Whitworth was guilty of a little offence; he came after they had all sat down to dinner, which wounded the punctuality of Bonaparte: he very civilly, however, reserved the place for the Duchess next to himself. Somebody told me yesterday that the Duke of Gordon made the Consul a speech of five minutes. The dinner was magnificent, but they had only forty minutes allowed, half of which would be taken up in looking about one. I don't understand why he should be so hasty to rise from dinner; it is not from the affectation of business as some have said, because there is an assembly and cards after it at which he remains. It is interesting to see a man who has raised himself by prudence, sagacity and courage from obscurity to pomp and power, from insignificance to the highest situation among men; it is curious to examine the progress of this greatness, to behold this man low in stature, weak in body, sickly in constitution, making use of thousands but as instruments of his ambition, and to see them bowing with humility before the power of an energetic mind: to see him composing the differences of the world, and giving the impulse of his will to forty millions of his fellow-creatures, and it cannot fail to strike the most insensible with wonder—a Markoff, a Duchesini, a Cobentzel



decorated with stars and ribbons in a race of bows, prostrating their country and themselves at the feet of a man who ten years ago they would have hardly deigned to answer. It was interesting to see. I was pleased with Lord Whitworth, erect and dignified; he was respectful enough without ever forgetting that he represented England.

There is a great revolution in the manners of the French since last year; the new order was then proud of distinguishing itself from the ancient régime by rudeness and dirt: they now, however, affect the utmost splendour of dress and politeness of manner. We have been twice at the assemblies given every Thursday by one or other of the minor Consuls, nothing can be more brilliant, everybody goes full dressed in bags and swords; in fact it is the policy of the Government to draw the widest distinction between the different orders and to create a new aristocracy, and they think wisely that this obligation to dress is the first step towards it—in fact at this moment there is an aristocracy; the Senators are for life; their sons will remember that their fathers were Senators: this makes family and so on, but besides that he is establishing it more directly. There is a law now about to be passed giving to thirty of the Senators to be nominated by him, an estate in land for life to the amount of 25,000 francs, to be assigned out of the confiscated lands in each department. One of the principal arguments used by the members of Government in proposing it, was the greater security which the country would have for the patriotism of

the guardians of the laws, by giving them a permanent interest in the State. What is this but the usual argument for the necessity of an aristocracy? But there is another reason which has influenced him in proposing this to the Senate; it is confidently stated that he means to take the title of Emperor of the Gauls and of Italy, and thus by the power of bribery which this law would give him he means to corrupt the little portion of the Senate that is not devoted to his will. Such is the opinion. The title of Emperor is certainly more popular than King, and he may endeavour to reduce it to its original signification, but still it seems beneath him to look upon a vain title when he already grasps all the power he can possess; but it is the nature of ambition to look higher and higher and to be ever restless, to look at the clouds when the earth is under foot.

The society in Paris is principally indebted to the English and Russians; they give the best parties: very few of the French that we hear of give any. Madame Récamier gave a ball a few days after we arrived, and I have not heard of anything since. She gave a very large party a few days before we got here, which I should have been very glad to have seen from the circumstances attending it. After she had received a few of her company she complained of a little indisposition, made some excuse and went to bed; in a few minutes the bedroom door was thrown open, and to the surprise of everybody Madame Récamier was discovered in the lightest undress lying on the most elegant bed,



in all the grace and negligence of beauty. The crowd of men and women anxious to see her in this situation in an instant filled the bedroom; those that were shut out got upon chairs to look over the heads of the others, and Mr. Récamier, it is added, busied himself in turning up the covers of the chairs that they might not spoil the satin furniture. She continued the whole evening in this way receiving her company; every one agreed that she looked most beautiful in bed. What may not beauty do? and in France where it was always next to the King. Lady Elizabeth Monk gives good parties, and is liked very much by the French; Lady Coningham is greatly admired by them. Lord Cholmondely lives in great style; he gives great dinners, and is waited upon by servants in full dress coats, bags, &c., which he says the Consul is pleased at. I dined there last Sunday; his dress coat, which he made up for the event, is magnificence itself. The Duchess of G. is playing a curious part—doing and saying everything that is uncivil to the English. My friend dined the other day at Lord Coningham's where she was and a party of French. She took occasion to say that the English were so stupid in comparison of the French, she never should be able to suffer them when she returned; that in everything the French excelled us—mere dolls, said she. (Lady Coningham took up the defence of the poor English.) She is running after young Beauharnais everywhere, and paying him the most fulsome flattery; when he moves his lips to speak she applauds what he is going to



say, and her object it is supposed is to marry Lady Georgiana to him. He seems a plain sensible young man, and from his looks not likely to be taken in, but few men can resist the perseverance of flattery from an artful and experienced woman, and if that is her object, I should not be surprised in her success. She has made herself very unpopular with the English, and the French in general can't like her, for she hardly speaks their language. I have now given you, my dear Lady Milner, a little description of the society here. There is great splendour among the nouveaux riches, in the dress, in the furniture of the houses, and in everything, but those that were great are low and humble, poor and despised. France at present is an interesting but a melancholy picture to behold ; you see millions crouching in slavery—one man everything, the others nothing but his servants. Is this the fruit of a revolution brought about for the sake of liberty ? But fortunately they seem to be a people made for obedience, and tyranny is therefore less irksome to them ; they laugh, joke, sing, attend the theatres regularly, but show no signs of political life. I believe, however, they are more afraid of Bonaparte and of stirring in opposition to his will, than pleased with him personally or satisfied with his government ; but you may rely upon it he is too firmly seated in power to be easily shaken. I hear that many officers are discontented with him, particularly those who served under Moreau, but there is no danger from this quarter now ; the troops are so dispersed over the country that sufficient to strike



a sudden blow could not be easily collected, nor has any General the opportunity now of forming a party amongst them, and though there are many jealous of Bonaparte, yet they are jealous of one another too. So that this division is another security. Generals will not be loud just now either in their expressions of dissatisfaction, for he has a grave ready open for them—St. Domingo, where out of 20,000 men that were sent out only 5000, I have been assured, are now existing ; almost all the Generals have died. The body of Leclerc, Bonaparte's brother-in-law, the Consul-in-Chief, arrived yesterday to be interred in France ; in short the mortality there has even exceeded what used to excite our mournful surprise, and it is a way that would not escape him of getting easily rid of clamorous and disaffected officers—in short he is omnipotent, as far as the power of man can reach over man. Here I draw a line ; I must not go beyond this. I have already extended this letter too far—you must excuse it. I am really almost ashamed to send it, but I have not time, as Ellery goes away this evening, to write it over again, so that scratched and blotted as it is, must go. Receive it, with the assurance of my constant remembrance of your many kindnesses to me.

F. H. DOYLE.<sup>1</sup>

On his return to England my grandfather was made D.A.A.G. in Guernsey, and in May 1804

<sup>1</sup> From the original in possession of Cicely, Countess of Cranbrook.



LADY MILNER

*From a picture by G. Romney*



SIR FRANCIS HASTINGS DOYLE, BART. 133

became engaged to be married to Diana, daughter of Sir William Mordaunt Milner of Nun Appleton, York, and of his wife, Diana, daughter of Humphrey Sturt, of Horton, Dorset.

The marriage took place the end of 1804, and in 1805, probably to give him some occupation of a sedentary nature, where he could look after his health a little, through Nelson's influence he was appointed Chief Paymaster of Marines in London.

From that time his active life closed. I have not got the date of his promotion to Major, but I believe it to be 1803.

In 1807 he exchanged to the half-pay of the 54th Regiment, and was promoted Lieut.-Colonel in 1810.

In 1808 he joined the Board of Excise, and in 1812 was appointed Chairman of that body, and it is stated showed great ability in the management of its affairs.

He was appointed Deputy-Lieutenant of the Tower in 1826, Colonel in 1830, and Major-General in 1836.

Towards the end of his life he allowed things to worry him which, had he been in good health, would probably not have affected him in any way.

He was extremely anxious about the career of his younger brother, Carlo Doyle, who had entered the Coldstream Guards in 1803, and who



was rather a dashing young man, and inclined to outrun the constable. He himself was also much pressed for money, which makes one think that he and his wife were very bad managers.

His salary as Chairman of the Board of Excise was £2000 a year, his half-pay as a General and salary as Deputy-Lieutenant must have been nearly another £1000, so that he must have had nearly £4000 a year, which in those days was quite well off.

I believe, however, he got into difficulties, and died a good deal in debt. On two occasions also he had to undertake the disagreeable and difficult task of attempting to arbitrate between husband and wife. Lady Byron applied to him to act on her behalf in the attempt to settle her affairs with her husband, and being an old family friend it was impossible to refuse, and he, in conjunction with Dr. Lushington and Sir Robert Wilmot Horton, a cousin and early friend of Byron's, decided that she ought to separate from her husband.

My father thinks this decision the more remarkable, as the three men had had entirely different training and followed different careers. My grandfather had tossed about the world in the army from the time he was ten years old ; Dr Lushington was a highly successful Oxford man, fellow of a college, who became a brilliant advocate ; Sir Robert Horton,

a country squire, an able civil servant, a professional politician—and yet these three men, so different in antecedents and character, were completely in unison, and held that Lady Byron had no choice but to press for a separation.

In Lord Broughton's *Memoirs of a Long Life* there are several letters of my grandfather's given dealing with this subject, but are signed "J. H. Doyle," which is evidently a misprint for "F. H. Doyle."

In consequence of the part he had taken in this affair, my father told me that my grandfather daily expected a challenge from Byron, and it was arranged that if one arrived General Stapylton was to be his second.

It is curious to see how in those days the Army was the final court of appeal in all matters of honour.

Last winter I was looking over with my cousin, Arthur Wynn, some letters from my mother's father, the Right Hon. Charles Wynn, to his wife. There was one describing the duel between Lord Buckingham, his first cousin, and Sir Thomas Hardy, something to do with some anonymous letters. They fought six miles out on the Hampstead Road. Lord March was Sir Thomas Hardy's second, and after one exchange of shots he said, "He was aware there could be no

apology, and that therefore he should withdraw his man."

Mr. Wynn, then a Cabinet Minister, writes to his wife: "*You* would say that as there was no apology a further exchange of shots was necessary; but Lord March quoted as a precedent a similar case, when he had acted for his father, the Duke of Richmond, at Brussels in the previous year, and which had been approved of by the whole British Army, then quartered in the vicinity. *After that there is, of course, no more to be said.*"

Byron's challenge to my grandfather never arrived, so all ended well.

The other occasion that he attempted to mediate between husband and wife was between the first Lord and Lady Lytton.

Lady Lytton was a cousin of his, and towards the end of his life applied to him for assistance. He, and afterwards my father, attempted to help her, but her temper and disposition were quite impossible. Lord Lytton always behaved with the greatest courtesy both to my grandfather and father, but nothing came of the attempt to reconcile them, entirely owing to her unfortunate nature. My father never forgave her, as he said that her violent temper and the scenes she made shortened my grandfather's life. Some years afterwards she went to live in the country near my aunt, Mrs.

Leveson Gower, who wrote to my father to know if she was respectable. He replied: "From your point of view she is perfectly respectable; her heart is so full of envy, hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness that she has no room in it for any gentle peccadillo if she tried." This, I believe, somehow got round to her, and after writing him a letter, directed "Sir Francis Hastings Doyle, Bart., Receiver-General of the Customs, however infamous," all intercourse between them ceased, and they never met again.

In 1828 my grandfather was created a Baronet. It appears there was some question of his father, Welbore Ellis, being created one in 1796 or 1797, but it came to nothing, partly because he represented that his elder brother, Sir John, had a prior claim, and partly, I should think, from his being much embarrassed for want of money.

At the time of the Reform Riots in 1831, when the windows at Apsley House were broken by the mob, my grandfather was in residence at the Tower as Deputy-Lieutenant, the Duke of Wellington being then Constable, and the following letter was received from the Duke:—

LONDON, *Oct. 10*, 1831.

MY DEAR SIR,—I believe, from the symptoms of riot around me, that it will be necessary that I should have a few of my friends from the Tower



in my house this night, and I should be much obliged if you will send three or four here as early as you can. They had better come in a coach.—Ever yours most faithfully,

WELLINGTON.

Colonel Sir F. H. DOYLE, Bart.

Another letter with reference to business connected with the Tower is dated 1834.

LONDON, *August* 19, 1834.

MY DEAR SIR,—I enclose a letter, which is possibly from a madman, and may not deserve your attention.

It is just possible, however, that the property to which he refers may belong to the Crown. I recommend that you should see Mr. Ballantine on the subject, and, consult with him respecting the steps to be taken.—Believe me, ever yours, most sincerely,

WELLINGTON.

Colonel Sir F. H. DOYLE, Bart.

In 1837 my grandfather, from ill-health, was forced to retire from the Chairmanship of the Board of Excise.

From his length of service on the Board he had become entitled to a pension of about £1000 or £1200 a year. This through some accident at first was not paid, and as he regarded the neglect as a deliberate slight, he never applied for his pension at all; and this is one reason, I

think, why his affairs were so much involved at his death.

My grandfather died in 1839 at the age of fifty-six, simply of old age brought on by the hardship and exposure he had endured as a child. His pension for the time he had retired was never paid.

There is a very good picture of him in my brother's possession, but it has rather a curious look, and it appears that it had to be finished after his death. He died in London, and was buried at Willesden.

## MAJOR-GENERAL CHARLES JOSEPH DOYLE

CHARLES JOSEPH, commonly called Carlo Doyle, was the second son of Welbore Ellis Doyle, and was born at Warsaw in 1787, while his father was Military Envoy at that place.

He was called Joseph after the Emperor, who was his godfather, and from that fact I thought it probable that my great-grandfather had been in some way attached to the Austrian Embassy at Vienna, but that does not seem to have been the case. Carlo had more chance of education than my grandfather, his elder brother, as he was sixteen before he joined the Army, being gazetted to the Coldstream Guards in 1803.

With them he accompanied the expedition to Bremen and Hanover in that year.

In 1806 he returned to England, and in March of that year was appointed A.D.C. to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, the Duke of Bedford. At that time he no doubt commenced his acquaintance with Sir Arthur Wellesley, then Chief Secretary.

In 1807 he was appointed Captain in the



MAJOR-GENERAL CHARLES JOSEPH DOYLE  
(1813)





87th Prince's Own Regiment, at Guernsey, and in 1808 was attached to the Spanish Guerillas in the north of Spain. There are not many records of his doings with them, and he seems rather to have wandered about from one force to another, and led, what to a young man who was not twenty-two, rather an exciting life.

He appears, however, towards the end of 1808 to have attached himself principally to the Marquis de Romana, and, among other affairs, was present at the disastrous battle for the Spaniards of Espinosa, where he was wounded and narrowly escaped capture by the French.

He, however, followed Romana into the Asturian Mountains, and was appointed Corresponding Officer from the Spanish headquarters by Sir John Moore. While taking part in the operations of Romana, during Sir John Moore's retreat, Carlo Doyle was cut off on a reconnaissance by the French cavalry, but after three days in the mountains, finding it impossible to get back to the Spaniards, he joined the British army two days before Corunna, and took part in that battle.

He returned to England with the force, and in 1809 joined the 87th in Portugal, was appointed Deputy-Assistant Quartermaster-General, and attached to the advance. He was present

at the battles of the 10th and 11th of May 1809, the passage of the Douro, the taking of Oporto, Ruveans, and the battle of Talavera. Talavera was fought on the 28th of July 1809, and after the battle something accidentally fired the dry grass and scrub.

Carlo Doyle's division was on one side of a river, and the fire started the other side.

Every one thought that on the conflagration reaching the water it would have to stop, but it leapt the river and rushed through the tents, blowing up a powder magazine as it passed to a forest behind them; and as the fire kept eating its way onwards, the crash of falling trees could be heard all through the night.

Carlo had to undergo some chaff as to his care for his clothes. He was somewhat of a dandy, and at one time was supposed to be one of the best-looking men in the British army.

When he saw that nothing could save the camp, he was heard calling to his servant, "John, John, you look to the horses, I will look after my small things."

It was after this battle that the Spaniards in Cuesta's army and in Talavera behaved so shamefully, allowing many of the wounded to perish for want of food. In 1810 Carlo Doyle served with General Fane's cavalry division in Beira

Baxa, and afterwards in covering the retreat of General Hill's Corps to the lines near Lisbon. He was engaged in the cavalry charges of Campo Major, and always had the greatest admiration for Colonel Head and the 13th Light Dragoons. This regiment was in advance, supported by two squadrons of the 7th Portuguese, and the heavy cavalry under General Long was in reserve.

The French cavalry outnumbered the 13th and Portuguese, but the Irish Colonel Head said to them, "Mee lads, you see those fellows over there; tip 'em the Brummagem, spurrs and sa-a-bres."

After a desperate encounter they overthrew the French hussars, and then had to endure the fire of some infantry squares; but without flinching galloped upon the battering train, cut down the gunners, and drawing up barred the line of the French march, expecting the heavy cavalry to join in. Beresford, however, would not allow the heavy cavalry to charge, upon the mistaken information of a German Staff Officer that the 13th had been annihilated, and the French resumed their march. The 13th, under Colonel Head, and the 7th Portuguese, under Colonel Otway, however, continued their pursuit to the bridge of Badajos, and were fired upon by the guns of that fortress.

Carlo Doyle, who had charged with them, said



that as they came back at a swinging trot through squares of French infantry the French were swaying like reeds in the wind, and that he could hear the expostulations of the officers, "Tenez ferme, mais tenez ferme donc," as they passed. General Long, who had come up with the heavy cavalry, blew up Colonel Head sky-high for his adventurous ride, and ended his reprimand thus:—

"I suppose, Colonel Head, if you had found the gates of Badajos open, you would have ridden into the market-place."

He did not get much change, however, out of the Irishman, who assented at once. "By Jasus, and that I would."

The 13th were reprimanded in general orders for their disorderly pursuit, but it does not seem to have affected them much, as a fortnight later at Usagre they again charged two French cavalry regiments and pursued them for five miles, putting 300 of them *hors de combat* without the loss of a man.

Carlo was present at the two combats of Fuentes d'Onor. On the evening of the first fight, a patrol having captured a French officer, took the prisoner to him, the Sergeant making the following remark: "If you please, sir, we don't know what he means, but he says he is a Parliamentary." He was

marched off to Lord Wellington, who at once said, "Send him to the rear."

"But, my lord, he says he is a *Parliamentaire*."

"*Parliamentaire* be d—d; send him to the rear."

On his way, to make himself agreeable to his captors, the Frenchman began to talk about the difference of the French and English soldiers.

"Quant a vous," he said, "vous n'avez qu'a dire Halt, front, dress, et voila vous gredins enligne. Quant a nous, il faut repeter, Avancez, mes amis; avancez, mes enfants; bien heureux s'ils ne repondent pas, Avancez vous-même, M. le Capitaine."

What part Carlo took in the rest of the campaign I don't quite know. At one time he was on the Staff under the immediate orders of Sherbrook, and was the Staff Officer of the well-known story, which is often put down to Picton, but for which in reality Sherbrook was responsible.

I mean the one where, being sent to a Commissary to order bread to be at a certain place on a certain day, my great-uncle found him entertaining a party of friends at a sumptuous repast.

In reply to the order, he sent back as a message that he would do his best to comply with the General's requests. The threat of hanging if he failed, and Lord Wellington strongly advising him

to obey the order, as Sherbrook was a man of his word, are too well known to repeat.

In 1812 my great-uncle was promoted Major, and ordered to take command of a battalion in Guernsey.

In 1813 he was appointed Military Secretary to the first Marquis of Hastings, Governor-General of India.

It was something indeed to be Governor-General of India in those days, and his Military Secretary had a most interesting and exciting life from 1813 to 1823. In 1814-15, he was with the field force, in the Western Provinces of Hindostan, accompanying General Ochterlony during the first part of the Nepaul War; but later was recalled to Cawnpore, where a force was being organised to resist Amir Khan and to overawe India.

From 1814 to 1822 there are five volumes of original letters addressed to him as Military Secretary; but it is difficult to know where he was, as they are only directed to Colonel Doyle, Military Secretary, Headquarters.

The first one is from the ill-fated General Gillespie, who was killed in November 1814 at the Fort of Kalunga. It is dated October 1814, and complains bitterly of the reserve and disagreeable conduct of General Ochterlony; the second is from

Colonel Macauley, dated November 30, 1814, detailing the repulse of the storming party before Kalunga, and how the enemy were afterwards shelled out of the fort. There are two from Captain Dwyer, detailing the taking of Almora by Colonel Nicol in April 1815.

I wish I had seen these letters before, as the only time I ever had command of a side, with a mixed force, at manœuvres was between Almora and Raniket.

CAMP BEFORE ALMORA,  
*19th April 1815.*

MY DEAR DOYLE,—It is some days since I received yours of the 5th instant, and have delayed writing till I had something interesting to relate.

The day before yesterday Colonel Nicol crossed the river with 250 irregulars, leaving 200 regulars in a concealed situation.

We pushed a reconnaissance sufficiently near their stockaded position to have tempted them to attack us, but they did not attempt it, and showed evidently their anxiety for their left post, which is naturally their strongest, being 900 feet above the mountain on which we are encamped, and we are sky-high. Colonel Nicol has had British ensigns hoisted on all the highest quarters of the line which we occupy west of the Capillah river.

The climate here is quite delightful, the country



very beautiful, plenty of corn, &c., though it cannot be called rich. We have the wild vine, peach, walnut, and pomegranate in the greatest profusion.

Should you want a change of air, you ought to run up to Almora.—Yours, F. DWYER.

Colonel DOYLE,  
*Military Secretary, Headquarters.*

ALMORA, *April* 28, 1815.

MY DEAR DOYLE,—I enclose you a rough sketch (not found) of the plan of our operations here on the 25th inst., as it presented itself to us from the hill which we lately occupied, with a table of heights and distances. You may form a tolerably correct idea of what the troops performed.

We did not meet with very strong opposition during the day, but the night work was very severe. The whole has terminated gloriously, and, I hope, will prove very important, and produce consequences the most beneficial to you and Headquarters.

. . . . .

There is a mulberry tree here 34 ft. in circumference at the lower part; its branches shade much ground. There is a choice situation for a cantonment here; probably it may become one before long.—Yours, F. DWYER.

Colonel DOYLE, *Military Secretary.*

Captain Dwyer was, I think, an extra A.D.C. to Lord Hastings, who had been allowed to go up on the Staff of Colonel Nicol.

Peace having been established with Nepaul, the end of 1815, an expedition was despatched to Java, and to what is now known as the Dutch East Indies. Carlo Doyle accompanied the force as A.A.G. with the rank of Colonel. There are no letters from him in this year; but there is what would now be called "an appreciation of the situation" in Celebes, a large island between Borneo and New Guinea, which, I suppose, was compiled for Lord Hastings' benefit, as it is almost the only time Carlo's handwriting appears in the whole five volumes. I shall quote part of it.

#### OBSERVATIONS ON THE PROGRESS AND RESULT OF OUR CONNECTIONS IN CELEBES

Previous to the establishment of Europeans in these seas, Celebes appears to have been a prosperous and civilised country, which from the character of its inhabitants, and the nature of its commercial connections, maintained an ascendancy throughout the Eastern Islands.

It is not intended in these remarks to trace the progress of its decline, but it may be proper to premise that to the barbarities inflicted by Europeans, especially the Dutch, may be immediately ascribed the convulsed and distracted state in which

it was found, on the establishment of the British power in these seas.

In originally taking up the Dutch relations in the country we incurred in some degree the necessity of maintaining them, and having but little previous acquaintance with the country and the conduct of our predecessors in it, we were unprepared to act on an exclusive principle of our own.

It soon appeared that the principal object of the Dutch in connection with Celebes was to protect their commercial monopolies, and in pursuance of this object they had embraced a policy, that of dividing the country, incompatible for a British Government to uphold.

The native powers were drawn in collision, disputes were fomented, and the slave trade encouraged, rendering the country one general scene of devastation and distress even within the town and environs of Macassah; under the circumstances it may be expedient to keep in view the following proposals, which may arise out of the peculiar and unprecedented circumstances of its possession :—

1st. If the Dutch are in a condition to maintain our relation and ratify our engagements in Celebes on terms compatible with our good faith; whether that dependency is not, in the first instance, to be relieved, to enable us to assemble our troops, and withdraw from an arduous and embarrassing situation?

2nd. If they are unable to take immediate possession on such terms, or unwilling to embrace

such stipulation, on what footing are we to retain it? As a dependency of Dutch Java, it would be awkward, nay impracticable, or as an insulated possession of our own, unless by uniting the eastern country, now dependent upon Molucias, and employing its resources while reducing Boni.

The latter measure would be so far facilitated, that we should be able to command the services of the Colonial Corps, which will probably decline the Dutch service.

In the meantime, as we are withheld from prosecuting the war energetically, it is advisable that all offensive operations should cease, that we should limit ourselves to preserving the integrity of our own territories, and in our relations with the chieftains in alliance with us, omit no opportunity of conciliating the feuds subsisting in the country, and engage with our subjects and allies to uphold their interests, when the Dutch authority may be renewed.

C. D.

In 1816 Carlo Doyle returned to Calcutta, and in that year the Pindaris, always predatory, alarmed the Board of Directors by the depredations they were committing in territory under British protection, and after much pressure from Lord Hastings, they at length sanctioned measures for their suppression.

The Mahratta powers were also becoming discontented and warlike.

The Peishwa at Poona was thoroughly false and treacherous.



Holkar could not be depended upon, Sindia's policy was extremely doubtful, and some uneasiness was felt about Nagpur.

Lord Hastings formed alliances with Bhopal, Jaipur, Udaipur, and Joelhpur, and in the summer of 1817, arrangements were made for crushing the Pindaris, and the Mahratta powers, if they should join them.

If they all joined, it was estimated that the total hostile force they could put in the field was 130,000 horse, 87,000 foot, and 550 guns.

A great operation was set on foot, to enclose this formidable force, by a great concentric movement, under the command of Lord Hastings; and the Company's forces, collected at the different centres, amounted to about 120,000 men and 300 guns.

The northern Army under personal command of Lord Hastings had four divisions :—

General Brown at Etawa, General Donkin at Agra, General Marshall at Kalinga, Sir D. Ochterlony in reserve at Rivari, covering Delhi.

The southern Army under Sir Thomas Hislop. Hislop at Jalua, Malcolm at Amroati.

Doveton was on the Penganga river, not far from Risod.

General Smith on the Upper Godavery river, communicating with Baroda, Colonel Adams at

Hoshangabad, General Pritzler near Poona, and Sir W. Grant Keir at Baroda.

Later there were two detachments at Jubhulpore and Nagpur, under Brigadier-General Hardyman and Major O'Brien respectively.

The only route left open was that which led eventually to the Bikaneer Desert and the Punjaub. Lord Hastings advanced to Siunda, in Scindia's dominions, the very end of October, and Donkin at the same time advanced to Dholpore.

Carlo Doyle was, of course, with the Governor-General, but having traced him to Siunda, all the letters being to him, and not from him, and only directed "Headquarters," it is impossible to follow his movements. Nearly all the letters contain reports from the different columns, and give accounts of the breaking up, and pursuits of bands of Pindaris, and the capture of forts about the country.

Apparently it was the duty of Headquarters to impress upon the columns the importance of a proper use of artillery in attacking a fortress, as they were all inclined to assault too soon, and lose lives uselessly.

I shall only give a few of the letters that I think are of general interest.

The first from General Donkin is dated Meerut, August 16, 1817, and says:—

"Pray, am I likely to have the 87th with me? Recollect I took that corps first into action at Talavera."

One from General Donkin, dated Agra, Oct. 29, 1817, in which the following occurs:—

"The scarcity is diminished, though not now diminishing. There has been great distress. Many people have sold their children into slavery here, and numbers have precipitated themselves down wells, there to drown, rather than starve."

If this should meet the eye of Mr. Keir Hardie and his friends, who say the English have done nothing in India, it may give them cause for reflection.

One from General Donkin, from Agra, in which, like many Generals, he complains of his commanding officers:—

AGRA, *October 31st*, 1817.

MY DEAR DOYLE,—The dawk hour is approaching, so I must address you quickly. I had this morning for the first time a field day of instruction for my infantry brigade, without ceremony and salutes or marching past.

Commanding officers very rusty. One is deaf and blind—literally so. The second has never before been out acting with another regiment in line.

A third has never been in command till within the last few days. The fourth has a voice like thunder, a figure like Lumbo Panjo, a seat in his saddle like a washball, but a clear head, and knows what he is about.

I shall not hang names under these pictures. The deaf and blind officer is incurable; I cannot remove such obstacles; the others will mend.

All my corps are remarkably fine. It is a pity that this army is not exercised more in masses. I need add nothing to my letter of yesterday.

We are all ready and waiting. No wants.—  
Yours very truly, R. DONKIN.

Colonel DOYLE,  
*Military Secretary, Headquarters.*

CAMP TAGON, *halfway between Agra and Dholpur,*  
*November 7th, 1817.*

MY DEAR DOYLE,—As I wrote to Lord Hastings yesterday, reporting the arrival of the Bhurtpore Contingent, I need not trouble his lordship again to-day.

The chiefs and sahibs occupy one's time a good deal with ceremonial.

The Bhurtpore Sirdar yesterday made battle for an hour about my coming outside the camp to embrace him, but this compliment I have reserved for the Ranee of Dholpore, and I gave Colonel Tura Mund his hug in my tent.

I shall be at Dholpore the day after to-morrow



and wait for orders. I have not heard from Headquarters for four days.

I have written to Captain Close at Gwalior to propose his laying a dak through, as the way by Cawnpore is very circuitous. I send this through Captain Close as an experiment. Believe me, my dear Colonel, yours very truly, R. DONKIN.

CAMP, KOORHALGHUR, *November 30, 1817.*

MY DEAR COLONEL,—We were much distressed to hear that you and Captain FitzClarence had been taken ill with the dreadful disease that has been so busy in your camp (cholera), but rejoice that you have both now recovered.

No poaching on my manor, mind, and let me take Rampoorra.—Yours very truly,

R. DONKIN.

Colonel DOYLE, *Military Secretary.*

If two of the Headquarter Staff were seized with cholera and both recovered, I think they were extremely lucky.

A letter from General Donkin, announcing the capture of the wife of Kurrem Mahomed, a Pindari chief.

CAMP ON THE POOBATH,  
*December 18, 1817.*

MY DEAR DOYLE,—. . . Kurrem's wife, on being taken, denied herself, but on being taken to Colonel Gardner's tent all the other women prostrated them-

selves before her. She then confessed, and putting some grass in her mouth, crossways, which is understood to say, "I am your cow," or, in other words, "Have the same consideration for me as the Hindoos have for that sacred animal," she burst into tears, and asked if Kurrem was alive. On being assured we had not fallen in with him, she said, "I will eat ; I have tasted nothing for two days."

One circumstance renders the capture rather romantic. Colonel Gardner came to me, with tears in his eyes, and said, "I have come to implore you that you will leave Kurrem's wife with me, as eighteen years ago Kurrem saved my wife for me."

I need hardly say I had great pleasure in complying with this request.—I am, yours truly,

R. DONKIN.

Colonel DOYLE.

The following from Major Wallace, describing the Battle of Kirkee. I had always imagined it to be a more important action.

CAMP, JANLENCH, 21st Dec. 1817.

MY DEAR COLONEL,—I promised to give you an account of the campaign, since the attack on Colonel Burr on November 5th last, with my own remarks on the operations.

[After detailing the march from Kandiah on November 1st he states:] We reached Sirur on November 11th, and were attacked near Rajun-

pore, about twelve miles from there, by Narra Punt, with a very large body of cavalry.

We had none to oppose to him but 1500 of Captain Spiller's irregulars.

Our baggage was much scattered, notwithstanding strict orders to the contrary, and we sustained great loss in public and private property.

Captain Spiller behaved bravely, was wounded in the cheek, and several of his men killed ; but they killed many of the enemy, and prevented much mischief.

During the night Narra Punt received strong reinforcement from Gocklier, with orders to dispute till death with us the pass of Lonea. They attempted to do so, and it was a strong position ; but the horse artillery and riflemen soon cleared the way, and we soon had the pleasure of seeing Colonel Burr's camp at Kirkee, and the Peishwa's whole army encamped near Poona.

It was now the 13th November, and we had marched 160 miles from Ankrota, as fast as any force encumbered with a park ever did. The Peishwa was thought to be within our grasp, and every heart beat high.

The whole of next day we spent in making arrangements for a night attack, mounting some heavy guns on Picquet Hill, &c. That night on approaching the ford it was found difficult, and the whole army returned to camp practically without a shot having been fired.

The next day parties were sent down to try

the ford, and we were all day engaged with the enemy, men being killed on both sides.

On the forenoon of the 16th we were closely engaged along the river by the Arabs, who had cover, and showed great boldness in defending their posts.

But about two o'clock Colonel Milne and two brigades forced the ford, and took up a position on the enemy's side. In doing this there was some loss, for the cannonade from the enemy, till silenced by our guns, was very smart, and the Arabs fought till forced by the bayonet. I am at a loss to know why the whole did not cross, push on, and force the Peishwa's camp. My soul was filled with disappointment.

The other division, under General Smith, bivouacked on the Kirkee side, and crossing the river in the grey of the morning without opposition, formed up on the right of Colonel Milne; then we advanced to attack the lines of the enemy.

But they had made good their retreat during the night, and carried off nearly all their baggage and camp equipage. We saw the hills covered with their infantry and followers, and did not pursue them.

The city of Poona surrendered, and we encamped near it. Thus the Peishwa and his army escaped, and Sir Thomas Hislop had the opportunity of issuing some of the most flowery orders on the occasion of our success. I cannot



guess what he would have said had we cut the Peishwa and all his army to pieces. . . .—Yours,

R. G. WALLACE.

Colonel DOYLE, *Military Secretary.*

There are one or two letters from E. Fitz-Clarence, who apparently was on the Governor-General's Staff, and had been ordered home.

JUBULPORE, *Dec. 19th, 1817.*

MY DEAR DOYLE,—I have the pleasure to inform you that General Hardyman fell in with the troops of the Nagpore Raja this morning strongly posted in front of the Jubal Mountain; the hill was carried, and Lieut. Pope of the cavalry charged on the left flank and cut them up. I wish I had charged with the cavalry, but was forced to remain with the 17th.

I think myself lucky in having seen a little fight before leaving India.—God bless you.

E. FITZCLARENCE.

A curious letter from Colonel Gardner, relative to the customs of the Palace of Oudeypur :—

MUNDLAH, *Jan. 1, 1818.*

MY DEAR SIR,—. . . The present Ranah (of Oudeypur) has several Rancees, but does not honour them with his presence until he receive intimation that such a Ranee wishes the happiness of beholding his sublime presence, and has prepared the customary Nuzzur (300 rupees).

The invitation is accepted by the Ranah, who proceeds in state, attended by the Court and officers of his palace, and, preceded by music, arrives at the Zenana door.

Here he leaves his retinue, and is conducted to the lady's apartments. The Nuzzur is presented and accepted.

This is a sign for the attendants to withdraw, with the exception of three Maids of Honour, who do not retire on any occasion.

In a short time, by a loud and joyful clapping of hands, these ladies communicate the happy event to the females in waiting without, who, with congratulations, pass it on to the music; these transfer it to the trumpeters. Thus the whole town and surrounding villages know that the King drinks to Hamlet.

The 300 rupees is distributed to the vocal and instrumental performers.—I am, my dear sir, most respectfully and sincerely yours,

W. GARDNER.

Colonel DOYLE,  
*Military Secretary, Headquarters.*

On the 1st of January 1818 a very gallant action took place at Korreghaum, about half-way between Poona and Sirur.

Captain Staunton, marching from Sirur to reinforce Colonel Burr at Poona, with 500 men and two guns, found himself intercepted by the whole of the Peishwa's army of 20,000 horse and 8000 foot at Korreghaum, a village on the banks of a small

L



river. After nine hours' fighting Captain Staunton repulsed the enemy with great loss, but with a loss to himself of 271 men.

A column to commemorate this exploit stands on the spot. I don't know when it was erected, but it must have been mooted shortly afterwards, as I find several sheets of paper, with ideas for an inscription, in my great-uncle's handwriting. I saw the monument once, when on manœuvres from Poona in 1902; and if he wrote the inscription which now exists, I don't think he made a bad job of it.

#### THIS COLUMN

is erected to commemorate the defence of Korreg-haum by a detachment under Captain Staunton, Bombay Establishment, which on the 1st January 1818 was surrounded by the entire army of the Peishwa, under his personal command, and withstood throughout the day a series of the most obstinate and sanguinary assaults of his best troops.

#### CAPTAIN STAUNTON,

under the most appalling circumstances, persevered in his desperate resistance, and, seconded by the unconquerable spirit of his detachment, at length achieved the signal discomfiture of the enemy, and accomplished one of the proudest triumphs of the British army in the East.

To perpetuate the memory of the brave troops,

to whose heroic firmness and devotion it owes the glory of that day,

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT

has directed that the names of their Corps, and of the killed and wounded, shall be inscribed on this monument.

271 killed and wounded out of 500.

If they fought hard in those days, they were extremely well treated by the authorities.

A subaltern of the Poona Horse, who was in this action, lost his baggage, and afterwards put in a claim for 8000 rupees for the loss of "his breakfast service, dinner service, day, night, and other loose tents."

This was paid without a murmur, and as the rupee was worth over 2s., he received over £800.

I can imagine what sort of a reception a claim of that sort would meet with nowadays.

The Official Report of Sir John Malcolm on the battle at Mechidpore, fought with Holkar's troops on the 20th December 1817, is rather long; I think a letter from Captain Briggs gives a more interesting account.

Sir John Malcolm, after extolling the gallantry of the troops, particularly mentions Colonel Scott, Major Bowen, Captain Hulme, Major Andrews, Major Snow, Captain Walker, Major Knollys,



Major Smith, Major Caddell, Captain Stewart, Major Borthwick, Captain Briggs, Lieutenant Bell, Lieutenant Hodges, Captain Evans, Paymaster, who, on the Brigade-Major of the Light Brigade being killed, acted in that capacity, and was wounded; Captain Caulfield, Bengal Cavalry.

A letter describing the battle, from Captain Briggs:—

MECHIDPORE, *Jan. 5, 1818.*

MY DEAR COLONEL,—I regret not having been able to write to let you know before how things went in this quarter, but I have been continually in bed or on a palankeen, till the 21st, when I mounted my horse, and got a relapse of jungle fever; and when I tell you that during those three weeks I had no idea of what had become of a wife and three small children, who were at Poona during the treacherous attack of the Peishwa, your pardon will, I am sure, be given me under the circumstances.

[After describing the dispositions prior to the battle, he continues:]

Sir John Malcolm went down to the ford, and returned to Sir Thomas Hislop, saying, "I suppose, sir, you would wish your light troops and infantry to cross?" Sir Thomas assented.

A brigade of cavalry were pushed across, and were succeeded by the Light Brigade and the other brigade of cavalry. During this time the enemy had brought two formidable batteries of sixteen heavy guns to bear on the ford.

The Horse Artillery, consisting of fourteen six-pounders, then crossed, and formed a sort of *tête du pont* on the bank.

The Light Brigade endeavoured to find cover among the ravines, but were soon enfiladed by the enemy's batteries.

The left Brigade then crossed, followed soon after by the right.

The enemy's artillery fire was deadly ; nine guns were disabled, and fifty-two horses killed, with many men in a very short time.

At three o'clock in the afternoon, the attack was made by the advance of one whole line, and nothing could exceed the ardour with which the troops formed and rushed upon the batteries, the most distant about 800 yards, and the nearest about 600. The enemy's artillery were by no means appalled, and laid and depressed each gun, as the infantry advanced upon them. They made use of grape and chain shot, and it is remarkable, hardly any mounted officers were wounded, and almost all the infantry were hit about the legs.

In less than ten minutes, thirty officers and over 700 men were mown down, while the determination of the enemy's artillerymen was such that some instances occurred of their clasping their guns, and suffering themselves to be bayoneted rather than quit them.

As soon as the guns were carried, the fire of our infantry became so hot, that the fourteen battalions of the enemy's infantry broke and fled, without further opposition, while our small band of cavalry

(1200) took them in flank, and for two miles the ground was strewn with whole battalions of them, and a pursuit of them by 4000 Mysore Horse completed the victory.

Holkar's army was scattered, and four days afterwards the whole of his baggage was in our hands.

I have not said a word of any individual in the action, but with all his friends, you will be happy to hear that Sir John Malcolm was everywhere, and at length headed the Europeans at the attack on the batteries.—I am, my dear sir, yours very truly,

JOHN BRIGGS.

Colonel DOYLE,

*Military Secretary, Headquarters.*

*P.S.*—The Rocket Troop proved wholly inefficient, and most of the rockets exploded the moment they ignited, instead of fusing.

One from Colonel Adams' force :—

CAMP, GUNGRAM, 13th January 1818.

MY DEAR COLONEL,—It is with sentiments of the highest satisfaction I transmit for the information of the most noble the Commander-in-Chief a copy of my letter of this date to the Qr.-Mr.-General, with a transcript of Major Clarke's report, stating the almost complete destruction of the Durrahs of Kurrceem Khan, and Wasil Mahommed. Naunda Khan is among the slain, and I trust that the two Rapillas of Capt. Robert's corps which I have

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detached after the party of Pindaris mentioned in my letter to Col. Blacker will return with a good account of them.—I remain, yours very truly,

T. W. ADAMS.

Colonel DOYLE, *Military Secretary.*

Another letter from E. Fitzclarence, just before sailing :—

BOMBAY, 26th June 1818.

MY DEAR DOYLE,—His Highness the Peishwa nearly had the honour of taking me and my despatches, near the famous village of Korreghaum on my road here.

After a march of 40 miles, I safely reached Poona, but 1000 of his Highness's cavalry were upon the road, and prevented the return of my escort the next day.

I arrived here on the 3rd, and was received with great kindness by Sir E. Nepean at his house.

I sail to-morrow, but fear I shall not be able to reach Suez, as it is too late in the year, but shall do all I can. Many thanks for your two letters. Thank God, the lord has things turning up as he most desires ; he ought and must be quite delighted. I have heard once from him, and he writes in excellent spirits. This is not so bad a place as I expected. Remember me to all. God bless you.  
—Yours ever,

E. FITZCLARENCE.



CAMP, NEAR RAMPOORA,  
*February 8, 1818.*

MY DEAR COLONEL,—We now expect to hear in one or two days what you think of our success at Jaund. I hope you will be content.

On going over the ground, and considering it, I was astonished at the facility and cheapness with which we obtained it; I can only account for it by saying that as soon as the Bhow's cannon opened, "*nous brusquames l'affaire*," and much bloodshed was saved by boldly and deliberately doing what was determined on.

The First is certainly as dirty a battalion as there is in the service, but there is not a more steady or more spirited one, and the obedience which they paid to the General's orders, to refrain from plunder in a town which they had taken by assault three minutes before, was admirable.

Remember the map which I wish your permission to have a copy of, and remember me in the arrangements that are made.—Yours very truly,

W. G. BEATSON.

By February 1818 Lord Hastings had been uniformly successful, and organised resistance was at end, and henceforward the letters are reports of the assaults on the various robber forts there were scattered over the country, and the breaking up of small bands of Pindaris.

Some of Holkar's cavalry had indeed been acting with us, and the following letter from

Captain Beatson, with General Malcolm's force, is rather curious :—

CAMP, NEAR RAMPOORA,  
*March 5th, 1818.*

MY DEAR COLONEL,—All is quiet here; we are looking for news from the south. Sir John Malcolm marched yesterday from Holkar's camp to Michedpore.

Before leaving, a curious incident occurred.

A body of Holkar's best horse dashed into his camp, and rode up to his tent. The chief, alighting, said they had come to complain of Suntia Jog, and as they found it impossible to get their arrears from him, they wished to solicit permission to join the Peishwa.

Sir John entered into discourse with them, condoled with them upon their distress for money, and assured them that they should have his permission to go, but that the danger was so great he advised their remaining.

"First," says he, "there is Colonel Scott with part of my force at Michedpore, and Colonel Adams near Bilsa. If you pass Colonel Scott you will come upon Sir William Keir at Indore. There are troops at Hindia and troops at Sandwah, and if you get into Khandesh you will come upon General Doveton, and after all this you will find General Smith and two or three armies pursuing the Peishwa, and will inevitably be entrapped by some of these detachments." They said it was very true, and that it would be more difficult than

they supposed, and that it would be better to stay where they were.

After this conversation they returned to their camp.—Yours truly, W. G. BEATSON.

Colonel DOYLE, *Military Secretary.*

Captain Beatson was anxious for a Staff appointment, and later had been going down to Calcutta to take one up; but he writes to Carlo, "That he is deeply in love with Miss Humphreys, and that as you are not an old Colonel but a young one, you will excuse this very natural desire to stay some months in this happy state."

An unfortunate occurrence happened at Talnair.

After the fort had surrendered and several officers had gone inside, they were treacherously set upon, and several killed and wounded. Captain M'Gregor killed, Colonel Murray, Major Gordon, Lieutenant Anderson, Lieutenant Channel, wounded. There were also eight men killed and sixteen wounded. The garrison were afterwards put to the sword.

The following is a letter from General Malcolm on the subject :—

CAMP, MICHEDPORE,  
March 8th, 1818.

MY DEAR DOYLE,—I have been so much pressed lately, I have no time to write; but I now have a prospect of more leisure.

You will have been grieved to hear of the fine fellows we lost at that rascally little place, Talnair.

I trust in God Murray will recover; he is a gallant fellow.

There are many accounts of this affair; the most trustworthy is the one I send you.

I thought of your lecture about Haterass<sup>1</sup> when I heard of this business, but we cannot all command such means.

I have, however, requested Sir V. Keir to lend me two 18-pounder guns and two howitzers, and, by the blessing of God, I will make an example of the first fort which shows fight.

I was much obliged by what you said about Bell; he is a most admirable young officer, and I am under obligations to him for his uniform good conduct.—Yours very sincerely,

JOHN MALCOLM.

Colonel DOYLE,  
*Military Secretary, Headquarters.*

One letter from Colonel Adams struck me very much:—

CAMP, WINGHAU, *April 8th, 1818.*

MY DEAR COLONEL,—From my letter of the 5th inst., you no doubt concluded I was on the point of commencing a chase after Bazai Baw, in the direction of the Godavery, but circumstances have occurred to prevent my proceeding further

<sup>1</sup> Haterass was a strong and important fortress in the Doab deemed impregnable. It was reduced by Lord Hastings in fifteen hours by the fire of forty-two mortars.



south, for the present at least, and most likely altogether, for in the first place I was obliged to halt here and send all my supplies to Colonel Scott at Chanda, who was in great need, and who sent me two most pressing expresses. . . .—Yours very truly,

J. W. ADAMS.

Colonel DOYLE, *Military Secretary*.

In South Africa I don't see any column halting and sending all its supplies over to another column, simply because they were in need, and without orders from a superior officer.

They did play up in those days to one another, and I believe that was one reason that they were so uniformly successful.

A letter from General Marshall's Corps:—

CAWNPORE, 27th May 1818.

MY DEAR COLONEL,—Your letter, after passing me on the road, was returned from Jubulpore.

I need not assure you how truly gratifying it was to read your favourable sentiments of our proceedings at Mundlah, and General Marshall, to whom I read your letter, has charged me to return you his hearty thanks and acknowledgments for the congratulations you have offered him.

I sincerely join with you in hoping we may never see another case of *Cholera Morbus*. I believe the cause of it to be the use of tank water

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and exposure without cover at night.—I am, yours  
very truly,

W. L. WATSON,  
*Brigadier-General.*

Colonel DOYLE, *Military Secretary.*

I may mention that, besides recovering from cholera himself, Carlo Doyle once pulled a favourite servant through by rather a daring experiment.

The doctors having given the man up, he posted a man to keep watch on his pulse, and whenever that threatened to stop, he poured in a teaspoonful of camphorated spirits of wine, and as the man did not die either of the disease or the remedy, my great-uncle was very proud of his medical triumph.

The following is a letter from quite a different part of the world. The writer, Major C. Auber, was afterwards rather a celebrated Indian historian.

KANDI, 24th December 1818.

MY DEAR DOYLE,—I have travelled through the whole of the interior, and have visited all the forts, passes, and defiles, and I can, in some measure, give you a tolerable description of this extraordinary country, and the cause of the no less extraordinary system of warfare that has been carried on in it.

The greater part of the interior is composed of chains of mountains and hills covered with the thickest jungle and wood I have ever beheld, the

valleys between so narrow that musketry from either side can take effect.

Had the present force been in the country it is probable that no rebellion would have broken out, and even if it had, it might have been nipped in the bud. But unfortunately our troops were so barely sufficient for the defence of the various military posts that they were obliged to shut themselves up. This being the case the enemy gained such confidence that convoys were attacked. When enabled by increase of force to assume the offensive, a speedy termination was put to the rising.

The natives, with the exception of those on the coast, are savages, and one large province is filled with a wild race called Veldas ; they are much like Bheels, have no habitations save the trees, and no method of livelihood save the bow, nor have they any intercourse with other natives of the island. There are many Mussulmen in the island, but most of them are followers of Buddha. The climate in the interior is delightful. I feel no inconvenience from exposure to the sun all day, and a short time ago the thermometer was as low as  $46^{\circ}$ .

The Brigadier still remains at Colombo, and I am the only one of the Staff that has been ordered into the interior. My employment, at present, is to survey the unknown parts, and I have commenced trigonometrically on a large scale ; if I am allowed to continue I shall be of some service here.

In my next letter I will endeavour to give you an account of the different minerals, precious stones, and valuable timber.

I propose journeying to the top of Adam's Peak next week.—Believe me, yours very truly,

C. AUBER.

Colonel DOYLE, *Military Secretary*.

A letter from Colonel Lincoln Stanhope, 17th Light Dragoons, which showed that even in 1819 the work of putting down the marauding bands still continued :—

CAMP, 20 MILES EAST OF AHMEDABAD,  
*January 10, 1819.*

MY DEAR DOYLE,—I have been for some time occupied in taking securities, arms, &c., from 500 petty chiefs, villages, &c.

This district has been for ages infested by plundering tribes, who besides having exercised the right of exacting a sort of tribute from all the tribes and villages within many miles, have been in the habit of harbouring criminals, who commonly committed murder in our districts, in the hope of obliging us to come to terms. The inhabitants for 60 or 70 miles round entertained such a dread of them they dared not attempt to defend themselves.

The Gaikwar's troops dared not face them, and actually the whole army of 25,000 men lay before this village, which is open on one side, five months, fighting continually after their fashion, without obtaining their object of forcing the place.

On my return from the field I pledged myself to put them down, and was at length permitted to try my hand.



Under various pretexts I contrived to slip over a few men and two guns to Ahmedabad, and then made a night march and surprised this place.

After some resistance, in which two or three hundred were killed, the remainder have most of them surrendered.

The Government, in their infinite and overstrained economy, have used me very ill.

Sir W. Keir and every one was told by the Commander-in-Chief that I was to be appointed Inspector of Cavalry, but after five months it is stated that the Court of Directors had found fault with such an appointment, and that I could not have it.

The income, as you may suppose, was no small object to me, but the greatest annoyance was it being given abroad publicly, and my then being disappointed, as if I could not have been depended upon to do my best without being paid for it.

Luckily for you the post is just going, so I must now conclude.—Believe me, my dear Doyle, yours  
very sincerely,

LINCOLN STANHOPE.

Colonel DOYLE, *Military Secretary.*

The following is a letter from Major Colebrooke, and contains a reminiscence of the Peninsular War. I believe Colebrooke was an A.D.C. to Lord Hastings.

BANGALORE, *July 4, 1820.*

MY DEAR DOYLE,—I wrote to you from Madras, and enclosed a few remarks hastily put together.

We commenced our journey on the 23rd, and passed Walajabad, Arcot, and Vellore.

At Arcot I rode over to examine the site of the fort where Clive made his debut in a gallant defence.

It is entirely in ruins, but enough remains to interest the antiquarian.

The present fort at Vellore, the theatre of poor Gillespie's exploit, was to me particularly interesting, and I went over it with my mind filled with his own account of the affair, which I heard him relate.

It has been imperfectly understood. There is a fertility of resource throughout with which I was not sufficiently impressed till I went over the ground.

His charge into the square from the rampart, and down the ramp, to draw the fire from the 19th Dragoons entering the gate, was truly fine. Very few escaped who followed him. You will see by the enclosed sketch how he had to run the gauntlet of the enemy's fire.

I accompanied General Hartfield (?) this morning to look at your old friends, the 13th Light Dragoons. They are in the highest state of efficiency. Colonel Boyce is an active little officer, and he is well seconded.

I could not help thinking of your old charge against the Chamberan Regiment, the particulars

of which have often been related to me. They are quite as prepared now for the same sort of thing.

Your old friend, Major Macalister, spoke to me in terms of great interest and admiration about you. He talks of paying you a visit. Major Macruff (?) is a fine young officer, and I could name other germs of future commanders.

The 13th are very large men, and their horses, though large for India, appear small under them, but they are wonderfully active.

It is to be regretted that there is no means of rewarding services in India without taking officers from their regiments. What is elsewhere the highest praise, is here a term of opprobrium. To allege that an officer has adhered to his corps, during a life of hard service, is thought a reflection on his understanding, which could not advance him to the honour of the Staff.

It is delightful to see how the late war has obliterated all unfriendly feelings that once existed between the two services; not a remnant of it now remains.

I shall write from Mysore.

With regards to all, believe me, my dear Doyle,  
yours very sincerely, W. COLEBROOKE.

Colonel DOYLE, *Military Secretary*.

A letter from Col. Hunter Blair, A.A.G. at Bombay, on the subject of the Indian Regulations:—

BOMBAY, *March 15, 1820.*

MY DEAR COLONEL,—You are under more obligations than you may be fully aware of, to the white ants, for having devoured what is much more likely to misguide than to guide ; however, that they may have a further repast, a copy of Moir's Compilation, published twenty years ago, shall be despatched to you by the first ship for Calcutta. We have not any other publication that can be of service to you.

The total want of a key to the existing regulations and orders of the Army is a very amazing inconvenience to a stranger on his first acquaintance with it, or indeed to any one.

Nothing has been published since 1801.

I very well remember having the pleasure of making your acquaintance, when we were in pursuit of Soult, towards Gallicia ; also at Talavera, where a wound cost me nearly five years of precious liberty. Please present my respectful duty to Lord and Lady Hastings, and my respects to Colonel Nicols, should he remember me as A.D.C. to Lord Hope-town at Corunna.—Believe me, my dear Colonel, yours very truly,

THOS. HUNTER BLAIR.

Colonel DOYLE, *Military Secretary.*

During the time Carlo Doyle was in India, he had two natural children, I think a boy and a girl. The mother was, I believe, the daughter of a chief who had been killed with all his relatives, or at least they had all disappeared.



Both mother and children died in 1821, and I suppose in memory of them, my great-uncle founded some charitable institution for children in India ; and from the following letter must have endowed it rather largely.

He was then, I believe, quite well off, and it is so far satisfactory that had the endowment not been made at that time the money would probably have been lost, with the remainder of his fortune, in 1824 or 1825.

The letter is flowery, and I cannot guess who Major Forster can have been.

BARCILLY, *February 18, 1822.*

MY DEAR SIR,—I have duly had the honour of receiving your letter of the 22nd January last.

The generous and noble proposition you have made to second the efforts of the unfortunate descendants of Britons in this country has made a suitable and deep impression in my mind, although I am unable to express those sentiments in any way adequate to my present feelings and as the occasion requires.

Should our endeavour be ultimately crowned with success, of which, under your auspices, I certainly feel a lively and sanguine hope, believe me it will be the most pleasing and exquisite recollection to yourself, when time shall expand and mature the latent germ of happiness thus planted in British India, and thousands acknowledge the blessing

which (next to God) they will stand under to your generosity, when freedom and just equality will be granted, the sacred ties of friendship will be drawn closer, and happiness diffused equally to your fellow-Christians and fellow-subjects.

He who nobly hazards his life in the toils and dangers of war, and thinks

*Dulce est et decorum pro Patria mori,*

well deserves the applause and admiration of his country.

The Senator who directs the counsel of his Prince with disinterested zeal and uprightness excites our esteem and reverence, but he who steps forward, the champion of the rights and liberties of his fellow-subjects, deserves the love, gratitude, and veneration of all mankind.

Nor will the voice of thousands, thus benefited and made happy, be backward in offering their purest tribute of affection, their increasing prayer, for your health, happiness, and prosperity, when encircled with your family in your own native land.

These, sir, are but a portion of that glorious reward, which will add a zest to all your social hours.

There is one greater than all these, the fulfilment of your duty as a Christian in the sight of God, with self-approving conscience of having conferred happiness to thousands.

These, sir, cannot fail to cheer your latter days, when age shall render the busy scenes of public life irksome, and a tranquil retirement be hailed, as

affording leisure and opportunity to cast a retrospective glance to those occurrences and events which draw forth the admiration, applause, and gratitude of thousands.

I shall now conclude with sincerest wishes for your health and happiness, and remain, my dear sir, your grateful and devoted servant,

H. G. FORSTER,

*1st B. Cavalry.*

About 1817 or 1818, Carlo Doyle painted a great picture upon pocket-handkerchiefs, of Lord Hastings entry to Oude. It is now hanging at Loudoun Castle, where I once went to see it. It is about fifteen feet long by about two feet high, and the march of the army is portrayed in the most wonderful manner, and with the greatest detail. In the extreme right-hand bottom corner there is a party of officers hunting a black buck with fox-hounds, which shows that even in those strenuous days they did have some amusement.

But I think it rather remarkable, in all the five volumes containing hundreds of letters, from all sorts of people, and from all parts of the country, when India must have been teeming with game, from tiger to black partridge, there is not a mention of anything to do with sport.

They deal with the government, agriculture, geology, timber, and antiquities of different places,

but the wild animals are not touched upon. Either they were too busy, or else tigers were so common, they were not thought worthy of notice.

In 1823 Carlo Doyle quitted India, and having realised his investments, left his money behind him in Calcutta, waiting till the exchange should be favourable ; but shortly after his return home, the banks at that place went down one after the other, and the whole of his fortune was swept away, and he found himself at past forty almost penniless.

Previous to this, according to my father, he had suffered a great disappointment.

It appeared, on the accession of a new sovereign, large fees were payable to the Military Secretary to the Governor-General, and, on the death of George III., the banks had offered him £30,000 for his chance. This he was advised to refuse ; but, on the accession of George IV., a rule was brought in abolishing the fees, on the ground that George IV. had been *de facto* sovereign as Prince Regent for so long.

About 1827 my great-uncle had to begin the world again, and somewhere about that time went out to Jamaica to be Private Secretary to Lord Sligo.

After staying there some time he was made Governor of Grenada, where he remained till his health broke down, and he returned home to die.



The only incident of his Governorship which is of interest I cannot do better than quote my father's account of, who, of course, got it first hand.

"A ship with a cargo of slaves having been captured, the slaves on board were released and handed over to various persons throughout the island, and placed under a kind of apprenticeship.

"A boy and a girl, the girl a Koromantyn and the boy an Eboe, became part of the Governor's household.

"The Koromantyn is of fierce and haughty nature, while the Eboe is meek and submissive. When the Koromantyn falls into our hands they are willing enough to be soldiers, and they become good soldiers in the West Indian regiments; but slaves they never will be. They either commit suicide or pine away in despair, so that their value in the market amounted to nothing, for the simple reason that no one would buy them.

"The Governor's Koromantyn girl possessed in a high degree the natural attributes of her people.

"In obedience to them, she took a fancy into her head that the Eboe boy, who from the heights of her self-esteem she utterly despised, had gradually become a greater favourite than she was.

"This being so, she determined on revenge.

"Having manufactured a sort of sabre out of the iron hoops of a puncheon, she cut her rival down with a severe blow on the head—as a matter

of course. Then, rushing into the room of the august brown housekeeper, she dragged all the best clothes out of the drawers and tore them to shreds.

"These facts having been accomplished, she marched in stately dignity out of doors and sat down in the bush, crooning out a wild sort of hymn.

"The housekeeper was weeping over the fragments of her gowns, the Eboe boy was plastering up his head, and the Governor writing despatches, so that nobody took much notice, till the old Sergeant-Major of the Black Regiment quartered in the town came to the Governor and asked if he knew what the girl was doing.

"‘No, how should I?’ was the natural reply.

"‘Well, sir, she is singing the death-chant of her race, and, unless prevented, will certainly make away with herself.’

"Now the Governor had had much experience of life, and had learnt that the nature of women, under whatever coloured skin it hides itself, is everywhere much the same, so he knew how to talk to her.

"‘What are you about,’ he shouted out, ‘making that hideous hullabulloo so near my window? Can’t you see that you hinder me from writing my letters. If you must grunt like a hog in a high wind go further off, and make those ridiculous noises as long as you please.’

"This unsentimental way of looking at matters fell upon the grim excitement of the young savage

like a bucket of cold water ; so she gathered herself up and lurched sullenly back to the house.

“ A Cabinet Council being then held under the auspices of the Sergeant-Major, the final result was that this Koromantyn Camilla, on receiving a humble apology from the Eboe boy, for having given her the trouble to cut him down ; a humble apology from the worn housekeeper, because it was her fault that she had tired herself in tearing all the gowns and petticoats in pieces ; and a humble apology from the Governor for interfering with her magnanimous projects of self-destruction, consented to survive.

“ She afterwards married a Koromantyn soldier in a West Indian regiment, and became one of the best washerwomen in the island.”

My great-uncle returned to England in 1845 ; he was promoted Major-General in 1846, and died at his house in Regent Street in 1848.

My father succeeded to the minute wreck of what was once quite a respectable fortune ; but I have no idea what became of his medals, plate, &c., the only thing that seems to have come to my brother being the five volumes of letters before-mentioned.







MAJOR-GENERAL SIR JOHN MILLEY DOYLE, K.C.B., &c.,  
M.P. CO. CARLOW, 1830

*From a painting by Count D'Orsay*

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR JOHN MILLEY  
DOYLE, K.C.B.

*Knight of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain, Tower and  
Sword of Portugal, Crescent.*

SIR JOHN MILLEY DOYLE was the son of Nicholas Doyle, Dean of Fenner and Leighlen, fourth son of Charles Doyle of Brambleston, and was consequently a nephew of Sir John and of Welbore Ellis Doyle. He was born 1781, and was appointed Ensign in the 107th Foot, 31st May 1794; Lieut. 108th Foot 21st June 1794; Lieut. 92nd Foot, 1800.

With the 92nd he went through the Egyptian Campaign of 1801.

He was present at the landing of Aboukir Bay, 8th March 1801, the actions of the 13th and 21st of March, where the 92nd were heavily engaged, the Battle of Alexandria, the attack on the Green Hill redoubt under the orders of his uncle, Sir John Doyle, the affair of Rhamanie, fall of Cairo, Alexandria, &c.

For this campaign he received the badge of the Crescent.

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Promoted Captain, 81st Foot, 9th July 1803.

Transferred 5th Foot, 3rd September 1803.

Transferred 87th Foot, 7th December 1804.

Major on the Staff in Portugal, 18th February 1809.

Local Lieut.-Colonel, March 1809.

He was appointed to command the 16th Portuguese Regiment, and in the campaign on the Douro commanded the 16th and 19th Portuguese Regiments at the Battle of Grijon, 11th May 1809, where the 16th Regiment particularly distinguished itself by taking a wood which formed the key of the French position. Mentioned in despatches. Commanded the same two regiments at the passage of the Douro; thanked by Sir E. Paget.

He was subsequently in various affairs attending the retreat of Soult and Messina, under the command of Sir D. Pack, by whom he was thanked on various occasions, being constantly in advance of the Army.

In one of these actions there is rather an amusing story told of him by his cousin, Carlo Joseph Doyle, who was a D.A.Q.M.G. on the staff of Lord Wellington; I believe it to have been a fight called Foz d'Aronce on the 15th March 1811.

John Milley Doyle was in command of the 16th and 19th Regiments, and was on the right of the attack, and was pushing his men forward rather

quicker than Lord Wellington, who was there in person, liked. So turning to Carlo Doyle, he said, "Ride over, Doyle, to that d—d Irish cousin of yours, and tell him to keep his men in hand for the present."

Carlo obeyed, and found his "d—d Irish cousin" cracking a huge hunting-whip, and shouting at the top of his voice, "Hola, senores; forward, senores; en avant, senores," and so on. On receiving the General's order, he answered thus, "Oh, very well, that must be as he likes, but do you tell Lord Wellington from me, Carlo, that it is a very bad plan backing young horses just as you have got them to face a hill."

This I imagine Carlo was much too wide-awake to do.

He was present at Fuentes d'Onor, where his regiments were on the left, and they suffered severely at the village of Poco Velho; he was thanked by Sir E. Houston.

He served at the siege of Badajos 1811, where his regiment, the 16th, formed part of the force investing Christoval, but after two assaults, and having in the second lost 140 men, the siege was abandoned.

He was present at the capture of Ciudad Rodrigo, and was part of the force told off for the false attack on St. Jago Gate, but which was successfully carried.





He commanded the 19th Portuguese Regiment at the Battle of Victoria, where the Portuguese contingent fought well, and lost 1100 men killed and wounded.

He commanded the 19th Portuguese Regiment at the battles of the 19th, 29th, 30th July 1813; on the last day, the Portuguese bore the brunt of the fighting, and lost 1200 out of a total loss to the Allies of 1900 men.

After this he was constantly in advance of the 7th Division under Lord Dalhousie, and commanded the 16th and 19th Regiments at the battles of the 1st and 2nd August, where they drove the French from their camp behind the Bridge of Ardax and burnt it.

He commanded the 6th Brigade at the Battle of Nivelle, where they carried two redoubts at D'Erlon's second position, after 11 o'clock on that day, and on the 18th November formed part of the force that captured the bridge at Melains, and held it against a counter attack of the French on the 19th. Thanked in General Orders by Marshal Beresford.

He commanded the 6th Brigade at the Battle of Orthes, and marched with the Brigade to Bordeaux.

For his services during the campaign, he received a K.C.B., Knight of Tower and Sword

of Portugal, Ferdinand of Spain and Isabella of Spain.

He then returned to England, but at the end of 1814 was sent out to Portugal as one of the Inspector-Generals of the Army. He returned to England in 1817, and held one or two Staff appointments, but in 1824, the Portuguese Royal Family being in great distress from various causes, and he being much attached to them, he chartered a steam vessel, the *Royal George*, and proceeded to Lisbon, where upon his arrival he received orders from King John VI. to repair at once to the palace. The King asked him to deliver to the Princesses, his daughters, then besieged in the town of Cadiz, letters from him and the Queen.

Thirty-six hours later he had delivered the letters to the Princesses, who received him with gratitude but were obliged to decline returning with him, as they were not permitted to take Don Sebastian with them.

For this service, King John forwarded him the following letter :—

TO SIR JOHN MILLEY DOYLE, Kt., &c.

I, the King, send you greeting. Being desirous of giving you an additional proof of the esteem and consideration in which I hold you, and which you merit from me, as well for the services you have rendered in my Army, where you held the rank of

Brigadier-General as for many other particular motives which I have at present in my mind, I deem it just to promote you be a Knight Commander of the Tower and Sword, of which you are already a Knight, and that you may understand it, and be authorised to wear the insignia pertaining to the Knight Commander of the said order, I send you these presents, and may our Lord preserve you in His holy guidance,

By THE KING.

(Countersigned) D'ALMEIDA DE LACUDA.

*Given at our Palace of Alfirte, near  
Lisbon, February 17th, 1825.*

Being well known as an adherent of Don Pedro, after the death of King John VI., and from his having afforded protection to a great many Portuguese, by assisting them with his purse and otherwise, John Milley Doyle endured great persecution at the hands of Don Miguel, having gone out there in 1827 in order to assist his friends; in 1828 he was seized and interred in a secret cell, a remnant of the Inquisition. There seemed no chance of saving his life, but at length he was released upon the intercession of old friends in Lisbon, and also the expenditure of a good deal of money, I fancy, by his uncle, old Sir John.

In 1830, he was returned for Parliament for Co. Carlow, but in 1832, Don Pedro of Brazil having

come over from Portugal, and preparing to fight to put his daughter on the throne of that country, he wrote to Sir John Milley Doyle, and begged him to come out and assist, promising him a high command.

Sir John, therefore, resigned his seat in Parliament and went out with a staff of twenty gentlemen, imagining, I fancy, that he was to have the chief command; on his arrival, however, he found that Don Pedro, who called himself the Regent for his daughter, had assumed the chief command, so Doyle was gazetted a Major-General and principal A.D.C.

The military chest being very low, Doyle offered to serve without any other advantages than those enjoyed by Portuguese officers, who from the highest to the lowest were only paid at the rate of £2, 10s. a month, to be reimbursed on the scale of pay of a British Major-General when the campaign was finished and Lisbon taken. The Regent accepted this offer, and a general order was published which one would have thought would have settled the subject for good and all.

#### GENERAL ORDER

Major-General Sir J. M. Doyle and others having offered to serve without any other advantages than those enjoyed by Portuguese officers of



similar rank till the Army reaches Lisbon, there to be reimbursed the difference of pay stipulated, H.I.M. is graciously pleased to accept this offer, and to declare, how praiseworthy, generous, and chivalrous is the conduct of these worthy defenders of the Queen, his daughter.

(Signed) VALDEZ, *Adj.-Genl.*

Sir John was present at the action of Villa Nova on the 14th November 1832, under Don Pedro, and was also present at a sally from Oporto on the 28th November, but on neither occasion was much effected.

He found affairs in a very bad state, not only among the men, who were greatly in arrears of pay, and were on half rations, and were without boots and accoutrements, but also among the senior officers; there were constant intrigues even among people of British nationality.

Naval officers intrigued against military, Scotch officers intrigued against English and Irish, and I imagine he must have wished himself well out of the affair.

Matters became a little better when, on the 1st January 1833, General Solignac arrived from France; he was created a Marshal and made Commader - in - Chief of the Queen's Army.

He seems to have been aware of the intrigues

going on round Don Pedro, and spoke his mind to him very plainly.

Sir John took part in the various affairs outside Oporto under him, but when he resigned the command, he was rather at a loss, but eventually decided to see the thing through, and he appears to have got on fairly well with Saldanha, who was Chief of the Staff. He was present at numerous affairs, among others at the Battle of Leira, under the Duke of Teneira, but I don't know in what capacity, and also at the Battle of Ageiceira, where the Miguelites were totally defeated, and which practically finished the war.

After the Convention of Elvora, and the withdrawal of Don Miguel, Sir John returned to Lisbon, and the war having terminated, and being anxious to return to England, he applied for a settlement of his claims.

Saldanha, the War Minister, promised that they should be attended to. This was afterwards refused by the Council, and he was only paid as a Portuguese General, after repeated requests; and even to obtain that sum, he and other British officers, who had served under the same promises, had to give a receipt in full, and resign their commission in the Portuguese service. This was such an obvious breach of faith, that on his return to England Doyle obtained from the British Government a promise

that a Commission should sit to investigate the claims. The question dragged on for years, but the result of the Commission at length was, that the Portuguese Government was forced to pay to the other British officers £160,000 that they had previously denied owing; but, probably owing to the fact that he was the officer who obtained the Commission, he was the only one who remained unsettled with. The following is a letter he received from Marshal Solignac, who was one time Commander-in-Chief of the Portuguese Army :—

MONTPELIER, *March 16, 1844.*

GENERAL,—After attentive perusal of the document you did me the honour to enclose in yours of the 10th inst., I lose not a moment to reply, and to give you most sincerely my opinion on the subject of your claim upon the Government of Portugal.

The items of your account, I see, are made out in strict accordance with the contract made with the British Auxiliary Forces, and consequently your demand upon the Portuguese Government appears to me to be perfectly just.

From my position, as Commander-in-Chief of the Liberating Army in Portugal, I was able to judge and to appreciate your truly zealous, gallant, and very efficient services in that Army during a long, most perilous, and eventful period.

Your boundless devotion to the person and cause of the young Queen, the latter then a most doubtful

one, entitles you, General, not only to the just, but to the most generous, consideration of her Most Faithful Majesty's Government.

I am firmly persuaded, that when the facts of your case are made known to the august personage, whose throne was restored to her by the intrepidity of that very Army, in which you bore so brave, loyal, and distinguished a part, H.M. will not sanction even for a moment so flagrant an act of injustice, as well as of ingratitude, being done to one of her most ancient, honourable, and strenuous supporters.

Be persuaded, General, of the sincerity of my good wishes, respect, and consideration, and let me hear from you at the termination of this affair, which, of course, as a matter of right must be decided in your favour; and pray refer to me whenever you think I can render you any service.

(Signed) SOLIGNAC.

Major-General Sir J. M. DOYLE, K.C.B.

Nothing, however, was done, and though the Duke of Richmond, and Lord Brougham, took up his case, on more than one occasion, in the House of Lords, the fact remains, that Sir John Milley Doyle was the only officer of the Liberating Army who was never settled with by the Portuguese Government.

The moral of this is, if you go out to set a wandering princess on her throne, have a stamped agreement, or better still, get paid in advance.

Having spent much money in Portugal, both in



assisting his friends and making advances to Don Pedro, Sir John became greatly embarrassed for money, and in order in some way to provide for him in 1846, he became a Military Knight of Windsor, and later was appointed Sergeant-at-Arms to her Majesty Queen Victoria.

Towards the end of his life he received many flattering marks of attention from her Majesty and the Prince Consort when at Windsor.

He died suddenly in 1856 at the age of 75, his last public appearance being when he attended the Earl Marshal at the proclamation of the peace in that year.<sup>1</sup>

In May 1911, his Peninsula Gold Cross, with various battles on it and a clasp for Orthes, and his Orders of the Tower and Sword of Portugal, and Ferdinand of Spain, were sold by auction in London; my brother attended the sale to try and obtain them, but they went for nearly £200, which placed them beyond his reach.

It would be curious to find out how these things came into the market, and how and by whom they were obtained in the first instance, on his death in 1856.

<sup>1</sup> There is a picture of him in my brother's possession, which, though not a very great work of art, is of some interest, as it is supposed to be painted by Count d'Orsay.

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Doyle, Arthur Havelock  
James  
A hundred years of  
conflict



